

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 5th March 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ Mr. President, before the questions are answered, I should like to make a submission, Sir. Owing to some unfortunate circumstances, whenever any hon. Member arrives late in the House, and when his question comes up before the House first, it is generally passed over. Yesterday I arrived late in the House by about a few minutes and my question was passed over. In the previous Council it used to be the practice that if a Member whose question stands first or second, comes a little late, he had been given indulgence by the Chair to put his question later. May I also request you, Mr. President, to extend the same indulgence to the Members hereafter.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I do not quite understand the hon. Member . . . May I know when he came late and when his question was passed over? ”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ Yesterday I was late by about five minutes, Sir. I was not here in my seat, Sir, when my question was answered and I had no opportunity to put supplementaries. So I request that whenever a Member is not present, or if he comes late, his questions may be taken up last.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I thought that I was showing an indulgence to hon. Members by allowing their questions being answered by the Government, even when they were absent. If that is not sufficient, I shall consider the hon. Member's suggestion for future guidance.”

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Central Nazir, District Court, Chingleput.

* 29 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : With reference to the answer to starred question No. 96, dated 21st October 1947, will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the reports called for from the High Court have been received by the Government;

(b) whether the Government are in a position to answer that question at the next sitting of the Council;

[5th March 1948]

(c) whether it is a fact that the High Court has found the Central Nazir to have contravened the provisions of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules;

(d) whether it is a fact that the High Court ordered the forfeiture of the valuable presents received by the Central Nazir;

(e) whether it is a fact that the High Court found that the stenotypist's complaint was not unfounded or vexatious; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the High Court has yet directed the District Judge to frame appropriate charges for insubordination against the stenotypist?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“(a) A report in regard to the allegations against the Central Nazir has been received. The report on the enquiry against the complainant is awaited.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative so far as the enquiry against the Central Nazir is concerned.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The High Court has recommended that the valuable presents received by the Central Nazir should be surrendered to the Government or that he should pay their value. The question regarding the disposal of the articles which are now in the custody of the District Judge, Chingleput, is under the consideration of the Government.

(e) & (f) The Government have no information. They await the High Court's report in this regard.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“Evidently the remarks of the hon. Mr. Sarma refer to this question, because Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar who has put this question is not present!”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“If I may be permitted to intervene, Sir, the usual parliamentary practice is that if a member who has put a question is not present, it is passed over and if he arrives before the question-time is over, his question will be taken up again and he will be allowed to put supplementary questions, Sir. Otherwise the answers will be printed in the proceedings.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I know that the procedure that I follow here is this. If the Minister is prepared to answer, I usually allow him to do so, even though the Member who has put the question is not present and I hope it has met with the approval of this House. If the Minister has no objection and if he is ready to answer, it does not matter if the Member is not present and I also allow supplementary questions on it. That has been my procedure.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“Sir, in the lower House, the procedure followed is different.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“But here, I follow the above procedure.”

5th March 1948]

Government Soap Factory, Calicut.

* 30 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of young men trained for soap-making in the Government Soap Factory at Calicut, and the amount spent on them in 1946-47;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start a Government Soap Factory in the Ceded districts;

(c) the quantity and cost of shark liver oil produced in the Government Factory; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to start a shark liver oil factory in any other part in the Province?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Industries):—“(a) Seventeen students were trained in the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, during 1946-47 and the net amount spent on them is Rs. 10,732-2-7.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Eleven thousand three hundred and eighty gallons of shark liver oil were produced in the Government Oil Factory, Calicut, during 1946-47 and the approximate cost of production is Rs. 99,490.

(d) No, Sir.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“May I know from the Government whether there is any difficulty in marketing the shark liver oil which they produce?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I should like to have notice, Sir.”

Central Labour Organizations, etc.

* 31 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether the Government deal with any Central Labour Organizations and Federations of Trade Unions and what they are?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Industries):—“The hon. Member's question is not clear. If the point intended to be conveyed is whether Government will consider representations and views presented by Central Labour Organizations and Federations of Trade Unions, the answer is in the affirmative.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—“May I know whether the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress is consulted on labour matters by the Madras Government, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I should like to have notice, Sir, as the Hon. Minister in charge is not here.”

[5th March 1948]

Suspension of the Municipal Commissioner, Dindigul.

* 32 Q.—SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Municipal Commissioner, Dindigul, was placed under suspension; if so, what are the charges on which he was suspended; how long he was under suspension; what is the result of the inquiry into the charges; and when were orders on the inquiry issued;

(b) whether any appeal was preferred by the Commissioner; if so, what are the orders passed on the appeal; when was effect given to them; who is responsible for the delay; and what is the amount paid to the Commissioner while under suspension;

(c) whether any extra amount was paid for the period he was under suspension as a result of the order on the appeal of the Commissioner;

(d) from what source was the extra expenditure met; and

(e) who is responsible for the extra expenditure and what steps have been taken to recover the amount from that person?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“(a) & (b) Sri R. Purushotham Sastri, lately Commissioner, Dindigul Municipality, was placed under suspension pending enquiry by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards with effect from 15th May 1947 (afternoon) till orders were passed by Government on charges framed against him by the Inspector. The following charges were framed against the Commissioner:—

Charge I.—That he grossly abused his powers as Special Officer by passing two resolutions regarding (i) the appointment of a standing counsel and fixation of his retainer fee, and (ii) permitting the contractor to levy and collect fees for sale of cattle in the weekly market.

Charge II.—That he neglected his duty as seen from the following omissions and commissions—

(a) omitting to take security deposit in full from Parasuraman, bill-collector;

(b) omitting to restrict collection work to those who had furnished security;

(c) omitting to do his outdoor and office work properly; and

(d) sanctioning cycle allowance to P. Krishnamurti Ayyar, Market Superintendent, when he was not entitled to it.

Charge III.—That he acted in a manner subversive of discipline—

(a) by deliberately defying Government Orders regarding acceptance of resignation from subordinates while disciplinary proceedings were pending;

5th March 1948]

- (b) by conniving at indiscipline or by culpably neglecting to take proper action to enforce discipline and maintain the prestige of the office, as evidenced by—
- (i) his conduct in merely 'pacifying' subordinates who conducted themselves disgracefully in his presence when strong action was called for in the interest of discipline;
 - (ii) his ineffective remarks in the running note file of a clerk's personal register;
 - (iii) his action in merely warning the Supervisor under the Municipal Engineer, who had been reported for bad work five times by the Municipal Engineer; and
 - (iv) his dealing with the clerk under the Municipal Health Officer very leniently when the clerk was persistent in his defaults.

A petition requesting cancellation of the proceedings of the Inspector placing the Commissioner under suspension was received by Government from him, but the Government declined to interfere at that stage and rejected the petition. Government issued orders on 21st October 1947 viewing with extreme disfavour the irregularities committed by the Commissioner warning him severely and directing his reappointment. He was reappointed as Commissioner of the Tirunelveli Municipality on 6th January 1948. There was some unavoidable delay in reposting him as Commissioner, as there was no suitable vacancy in which he could be posted immediately. It was ordered that the period of his absence from the date of his suspension pending enquiry to the date of his rejoining duty should be treated as such leave as he was eligible for and he was permitted to draw the leave salary admissible to him under the rules.

"(c) No extra expenditure was involved in his case.

"(d) & (e) Does not arise in view of answer to clause (c)."

Retrenchment of workers in the King Institute, Guindy.

* 33 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Director of the King Institute, Guindy, has submitted any proposals for retrenchment of workers and if the answer be in the affirmative what those proposals and the necessity for them are?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The answer is in the negative."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the Superintendent of the King Institute has actually informed several workers, that they have no work for them and that they would be retrenched and that representations have been made on this subject to the Hon. Minister?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have no information, Sir, as to what the Director of the King Institute has done."

[5th March 1948]

I believe that the Retrenchment Committee called for suggestions regarding retrenchment from heads of departments and perhaps in this connexion certain proposals might have been made by him. However, I have no information direct."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if there are proposals under consideration by the Government to extend the activities of the King Institute, Guindy? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

II.—NEW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I may inform the House that the hon. Mr. Uppi Sahib has agreed to Dr. John taking his place. I therefore request Dr. John to take the place of the Leader of the Opposition."

(Dr. V. K. John took the place of the Leader of the Opposition amidst cheers.)

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, before I make my statement, I should like to apologize to you, and to this House for not being present here on the 3rd and yesterday, the 4th, owing to some unavoidable happenings. This morning when I opened the papers in the train, I found that my absence in the House became a matter for discussion. Sir, I am very much obliged to you and to the House for the great consideration which you have shown to me and to my party yesterday. It was said that a letter was sent to me, but unfortunately for me, owing to my absence from my home for the last three days, I could not see that letter and I am extremely sorry that an impression was given that I did not reply to your letter, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There was no such impression; on the other hand, the impression was that the hon. Member was away at Delhi."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I thank you, Sir, that in spite of my apparent neglect, you have been good enough to treat me with such consideration. However, I apologize to you, Mr. President, for that omission."

"Now, Sir, we, the Muslim League Party was the main opposition in this House till now. It was not of our own seeking. It was a mere accident that we were made the opposition party. The Government themselves will admit that we were not an opposition party, merely for opposition. We were co-operating with the Government whenever we thought that co-operation was necessary and criticising them, whenever we thought that criticism was necessary, but our criticisms were always constructive and not destructive. I assure the Government, that as a party, we will be co-operating with the Government as well as criticising them, whenever we feel that such criticisms are necessary."

"As regards the newly formed party, I wish to say only one word. Let it be a true party. I do not want to say more. How that party is formed is a matter of public knowledge. I congratulate

5th March 1948]

[K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur]

my hon. Friend Mr. John for being the Opposition Leader. He is a capable leader and I hope that he will prove to be a capable Opposition Leader also, and I wish his party all success."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Uppi Sahib, the Leader of the official Opposition till to-day, for the statement he has just made in this House. I express the hope, on behalf of the United Democrats, that Mr. Uppi Sahib himself with his friends will join this party. because our primary object is the welfare of the common man, and the other objects which we have published can easily be subscribed to by Mr. Uppi Sahib and his friends. And it is also my hope that before long he will take this seat again, because as my friends know, my professional work does not enable me to come here and sit throughout the day, and as Leader of the Opposition, when I ask the Hon. Ministers to be present, I am myself bound to be present throughout the day. It is thus very difficult for me to discharge the functions of the Leader of the Opposition, but however, I have agreed to this for the time being because I was anxious that we must form a party which is non-communal and my friends wanted me to be the leader of it. I once again express the hope that Mr. Uppi Sahib and the other members of the Muslim League Party in this House will join the United Democrats, which is a non-communal opposition and that he himself will occupy this seat before long."

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, we have had an opposition till now led by Mr. Uppi Sahib. On behalf of the Treasury Benches I must express my thanks and my gratitude for the Opposition Bench that has been under his leadership all these months. We have worked as it were as a happy family with the Opposition here all this one year and more. We divided of course on issues and surely the Opposition voted against us but that is only a duty which the Opposition has got to do. I believe, Sir, that this Government has got to be run not only by us but also along with the co-operation of the Opposition itself and both of us were working together conducive to the well-being of this Legislature and also we had the satisfaction that our discussions had the full weight of the opposition thrown in it so that the judgment we arrived at was always a very considered one and subjected to all possible criticisms. In that view, I must say that Mr. Uppi Sahib has discharged his duties very well and he is entitled to the thanks of the Treasury Benches.

"I am also glad, Sir, that my hon. Friend, Dr. V. K. John, has taken his place. He is a lawyer of reputation and although he regrets the failure of his briefs on account of the tasks he has undertaken, I am sure that it will be a test of his patriotism in the discharge of his duties. After all most of us cannot, and especially public workers cannot be always thinking of briefs and incomes when we discharge public duties. I am glad that Dr. John has after all taken upon himself the duty of sacrificing a little of his income for the sake of public service which he could discharge in this Council. I also congratulate him on this score. I do hope

11-15
p.m.

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[5th March 1948]

that he will also help us in the Council with good criticisms, as he has often done even though he was not actually in the Opposition. I hope that as Leader of the Opposition he would contribute the same amount of vigorous criticisms on Government's policies and throw in his weight of experience and legal acumen in the discharge of his duties. I congratulate him, Sir, on his becoming the Leader of the Opposition here."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I feel I have to join and say a few words on this rather important occasion in the House. Though the Opposition till now was communal in character I am very glad to say that its nature as a communal party never entered into the discussions and our decisions and discussions were never marred by its communal nature. Mr. Uppi Sahib and his party have always been very diligent in their duties to this House and it is common knowledge that whenever it was necessary they gave their whole-hearted support to the Government and whenever they found it again necessary they never flinched from saying what they felt on measures that were brought before the House.

" I must also offer my thankfulness to the Leader who has also been very considerate and shall I say obedient also to the dictates as well as to the requests from the Chair. I cannot recall even one instance when the Chair and the Opposition whether the official Opposition or the rest of the Opposition came to grips on any matter, excepting one such incident which I remember. But that did not arise out of the communal nature of the party. I am glad to say that even on that occasion, Mr. Uppi Sahib and his friends who walked out, came back at my request and took their seats and the only incident which I could think of and which would have marred the proceedings of the House was thus closed. I have very great pleasure in adding my voice to the compliments that have been given to the previous Leader of the Opposition.

" I also welcome Dr. John and his Party as the Official Opposition. I hope the House will agree with me when I say that it is a real opposition and that it is not guided by any communal principles. It is a real political party in every sense of the term. It is not without some feelings of trepidation on my part that I welcome Dr. John into his seat. I have been seeing since yesterday that Dr. John is more active in this than in his old seat."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is very dangerous."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Though not more dangerous, I think it is rather disturbing to the deliberations of the House. I hope Dr. John will take this remark of mine in the spirit in which it is offered and that he will help in the discussions and see that the discussions are not disturbed. I am very glad to welcome Dr. John to his seat and also his party members as the Official Opposition. I hope we will get on as amicably and as harmoniously as we did in the past."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" We offer our sincere co-operation to you, Sir, in all matters."

5th March 1948]

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1948-49—cont.

* MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government and especially the Hon. the Finance Minister on the Budget, because, as the other hon. Members have said before me, he has not come forward with any fresh taxation. We are very grateful to him for it. More than that, as social workers we are pleased to see that so many of our requests that were made last year are now put into practice. Sir, I am referring to the post of Chief Inspector of Certified Schools, Adviser in Child Psychology, the Women's Welfare Department and the grant for a separate Industrial Home for Women who have been convicted under the solicitation clause of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act. We see, Sir, that there are extra grants for special schools. I am very sorry to see, Sir, that there is no grant for schools for the mentally backward children. We have received all these children and they are not fit to be sent to normal schools and they are neither so bad as to be sent to mental homes. We hope, Sir, that at least next year's Budget will include sufficient grants for this also.

“ Sir, we congratulate the Government on constituting the Women's Welfare Department. I hope, that they will afford the women workers in the department adequate facilities for going to other parts of India and studying the working of other social service organizations. I request the Government, Sir, to allow them to go to America and England and study the social service organizations there, so that they might imbibe and learn things from those countries and when they come back try to adapt those systems to suit the needs of our country.

“ The Madras Vigilance Association, Sir, has had a very trying time. The Hon. Mrs. Hensman also referred to it yesterday. I can say, Sir, that it has been on the verge of bankruptcy at least three times during last year and the Hon. the Minister for Finance and the Hon. the Minister for Courts know how many times I had to go to them asking them for aid as we had to draw overdrafts. This has not been helpful. It is not fair to the paid staff or the voluntary workers and they cannot continue to work efficiently having this fear in their minds all the time. I understand that the Government are thinking of provincializing this Home. What we want is this. In provincializing at least see that the voluntary aspect of the work is always kept. With due respect to the Government I say that work of this nature cannot be got done without the aid of socially minded people also. Then, Sir, I would like to say that it would be a grave injustice if the Director of Women's Welfare Department and the Secretary of the Children's Aid Society should have better emoluments than the Women Welfare Worker of the Vigilance Association. I refer to this because I do not want that there should be any appearance of partiality. The work in the Vigilance Association is also of a very delicate nature and the Government should see that these workers are also given

[Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

[5th March 1948]

the same status, as the workers in the Women's Welfare Department and the Children's Aid Society. I make these suggestions with an intimate knowledge of the working of these three organizations.

" I would also like to know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister in charge, as to when the work-house for the convicted women under the solicitation clause is going to be started. The Act has been amended and the amending Bill has become law, and that will enable women to be sent to the work-house. I know that the Government will say that there is no accommodation. I should like to point out that there are various buildings vacant in the military camps and I am sure that if the Members of Government would try they would be able to get them.

" I further trust, Sir, that the curriculum in certified schools will also have an appreciable change. We are all aware that the Government are spending a lot of money on the certified schools but the results are not satisfactory. I would also suggest to the Government that juvenile probation should be separated from adult probation. I have very often made this request. I know that it has not been successful since it was combined. Now the Government have appointed some new probation officers but that does not solve the problem. In the past we used to have probation committees and other social organizations working under the Government and voluntary bodies and the results were far better than what they are now.

" Then I come to the youth camps. The Hon. the Minister for Education has appointed a Youth Camp Committee. We have been sitting and we have been visiting various camps situated in the Province with the idea of starting camps for boys and girls. We have been submitting plans to the Hon. Minister. I hope that the Hon. Minister will not waste time and that he would be able to secure the valuable buildings, especially in Avadi and the Red Hills, which are very good sites for our purpose. Sir, in all these visits that we were making we were anxious to see that these camps were opened for both boys and girls. I think it is high time that we stop giving separate education for our boys and girls in separate schools because I think that it has been very harmful in its own way.

" Here I would also like to suggest to the Government that there should be a common menu and a common kitchen for all classes of children. There should be no separate kitchens. If we want to create a United India, there should be in such camps common food, common rules and common language also.

" The Hon. Minister was very anxious that we should have a united Boy Scouts and Girls Guides movement. We have done our best in that direction and as he knows we have achieved this. I can say with pride that the Girl Guide Organization to which I belong was the first to implement that decision. I see, Sir, that a sum of Rs. 21,000 is allotted for all the three organizations. I think that is very deplorable. In the other Provinces in India they

5th March 1948] [Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

get more than twice the amount allotted here, i.e., Rs. 60,000, or Rs. 50,000, etc. If you want that our children also should get proper knowledge and guidance we must have more money. Previously the Hon. Minister challenged us by saying 'If you have a united movement then I will give you more money.' Now we have a united movement. We hope that at least in the next Budget there will be a more adequate provision.

Coming to military training, I hope the Hon. the Minister for Education will see that the scheme is implemented soon. Military training for our girls also is very important. I know that many women in this Province do not hold the view that we should give military training for the girls. I have said here and in other places that we should have military training for our girls and I hope that the Government will open a military training centre for our girls. (A voice: 'Home guards?') Not only home guards. They should also get military training, something higher than home guards. In this morning's papers I saw that Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi has written to say that girls should be given military training. I am sure that when such a personality as she says that military training should be given to the girls certainly the Ministry should grant the request."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"You want to become a Woman Commander."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA:—"No, I will begin with being a sergeant if you want."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The Hon. Minister is leaving me out of the joke." (Laughter.) (Referring to the jocular discussion between Dr. P. Subbarayan and others.)

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA:—"Then, Sir, I am considered partial in supporting women's schemes in the Council. Now I would like to press the claims of boys' education. I understand from those connected with education that for the last seven years they have not received any grant for buildings. I understand that the Government may give them some loans. After all we have got thousands of children who are waiting to be educated and it is time that the Government do provide more money for education and for health schemes. Other countries spend so much on the education of the youth. I would again press on Government to effectively continue this first step on the importance of social service, that is, there must be a separate department of social welfare in charge of a lady and a separate Minister. Though it is for women's welfare, still the term welfare has come to include both men and women. Besides, the fashionable social service is now gone. Social service is as important as any other Government scheme. I hope the Minister will consider this request, and I shall go on requesting him until it is achieved."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"You want a separate department? If so, it comes under the Premier."

11-30
a.m.

[5th March 1948]

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ Yes, Sir. (Interruption) But the Premier is a very busy gentleman. We have to go to different Ministers—the Hon. Sri Madhava Menon in respect of Vigilance Home and the Hon. Sri Gopala Reddi for Finance, etc. Therefore, I think there should be a separate department as in other countries. I understand in United Provinces they are having some schemes under consideration. I would like to ask for a school of social service. We have the Tata School of Social Science in Bombay. It is very expensive. We do not want it on those lines. But we can certainly form our own school of social service. Here we have so many individuals who would like to have practical training. A health centre should be opened for giving training. If Government can grant us help in the matter of buildings, I think we will have the workers.

“ Now I turn to medical relief. It is a pleasure to see that more schemes are sanctioned. I am glad that the retrenched nurses were re-employed. We spend lot of money on hospitals, but unless we have adequate staffing, what is the use of a hospital? The hon. Mr. Bheema Rao and the hon. Mrs. Hensman pointed out the need for quarters to nurses. It is but fair that we give them proper quarters and proper recreation facilities. In some of the hospitals, it is shocking to see that 8 or 10 girls have to sleep in a single room. How can they do work and also be fresh for their work on the next day—especially when they have night duties—if 8 or 10 nurses are accommodated in one room.

“ We have a very understanding and sympathetic Minister holding this portfolio. So much does he understand the medical side that he is called Dr. Shetty. (‘ Hear, hear ’.) We are very glad to note the interest he has taken in leprosy and tuberculosis. We would ask the Hon. Minister to make further use of the services of honorary workers. The Guild of Service is working voluntarily in the City and also in the Province. We are teaching therapy and other jobs. We do these things regularly. If you let us work as honorary workers in the out-patient departments and give more patronage for training in St. John Ambulance work, more voluntary workers will come forward. Hence, this is a special request to you. We understand that mobile hospitals are going to be sponsored by the Government. We would like to offer our help here also. May I ask Government to seek co-operation from voluntary organizations? With due deference to M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. I say that there are hundreds of men and women (who are not fortunate to be in this House) who can do a good deal of voluntary work. Therefore, please include them in the various committees on social reform.

“ I am not an engineer and I cannot speak about engineering. But I am glad to see schemes and projects put through by the Hon. Minister for Public Works. I think more lands will be cultivated now in this country, and yield food to build a strong nation.

“ I do not say these things in a spirit of criticism, because we all know that it is very easy to criticize, but when once we sit and

5th March 1948] [Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

attempt to do things, it becomes quite a different matter. Therefore, we do congratulate Government and thank them for what they have done and are doing. I would like them to consider the points I have made out and be more generous towards giving us facilities."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—Mr. President, Sir, I should like to begin my remarks with an apology to the Hon. the Finance Minister for my absence when he was delivering the Budget speech owing to unavoidable circumstances. I conveyed my apologies personally to him, and I should like to do so now in public. But one thing he may rest assured, that my very absence has made me go through his beautiful pamphlet with a much greater amount of care and earnestness so that I may say at present I am perhaps as familiar with the facts stated therein as he is. In the course of the discussion, various criticisms were offered and naturally member after member representing the different constituencies spoke about the need for greater amenities in one direction or another—rural water-supply, rural reconstruction schemes, inadequate medical relief, lack of proper maternity facilities, lack of co-ordinated effort in regard to Harijan uplift and various other necessary developments were brought to the notice of this House. I am afraid, Sir, that it is futile to speak about these things at the Budget debate without a clear realization of what the future policy of the Government should be in regard to Budgets and in regard to income and expenditure. The Hon. the Finance Minister did a very clever thing in introducing taxation proposals long before the Budget was brought in, a method which is an excellent example and which I should like to be copied in another place. Having done so, he has presented us a Budget without any taxation proposals. But there is one serious defect. He does not hesitate to dip his hands into the reserve fund. He has actually taken five crores out of the reserve so that he can present a balanced Budget. This indeed was inevitable. But I wish to ask him and his colleagues on the Treasury Benches to consider whether it is possible in the circumstances in which we are at present situated to continue to depend upon dipping one's fingers into the reserve fund of the Government without serious financial inconvenience arising therefrom.

"I believe that the time has come when there should be a regular enquiry with the help of experts into the financial resources of this Presidency so that we may be assured on what lines financial increases can possibly be thought of and so that we may also be assured of the possibilities of giving adequate relief in regard to essential services, about which so much complaint has been made. There is another reason why I press upon the Finance Minister the necessity for appointing such an expert committee. He has noted very correctly that the resources of the Provincial Government will depend very much upon the future policy of the Central Government in regard to taxation measures. He has also emphasized the fact that he as a Member of the Constituent Assembly has given notice of a number of amendments to the Legislative

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar] [5th March 1948]

lists proposed in the Report of the Union Powers Committee appointed by the Constituent Assembly. Sir, on a former occasion when I had the temerity to move a resolution that these very proposals should be placed before the Legislatures of the country with a view to permit us (legislators) to give expression to our views—the Hon. the Finance Minister, not being a Member of this House, may not be aware of it—his colleagues on the Treasury Bench stoutly opposed me and somehow they and their followers wished to outhrow Herod and said that I was introducing a disturbing element in the discussions of this Council. I can assure them that I am not a person to be deterred by such comments, and that I shall not take those criticisms seriously as I do not propose to take the complimentary criticisms any more seriously. I do feel, Sir, that it would have been wise if, without leaving it to the Hon. the Finance Minister to table his amendment as an individual Member of the Constituent Assembly, he had been given a mandate from the Legislature—it may be the Legislative Assembly—to press for this amendment or to speak on behalf of the Assembly in the Constituent Assembly, not as an individual Member, but as a representative of the Government. I am afraid when he speaks or when he had spoken as an individual, he could not have claimed that privilege, and I consider it a very unfortunate situation indeed—more so because the Constituent Assembly as constituted, is composed of Members elected by the Legislative Assembly, and to that extent he should have taken a definite mandate from the Legislative Assembly if not from both Houses of the Legislature. I am not going to harp on that point. Let bygones be bygones. I wish that he should at present be in a position to appoint a committee of the nature I have suggested who will review the whole financial position of this Presidency and who will also take into consideration the taxation proposals that are to be passed through the Constituent Assembly of the Dominion of India. That Committee will also take into consideration much more urgently those post-war reconstruction schemes that have been hanging in the air and that are slowly disappearing from the minds of our people. I do not think it is possible for us to have any smoother budgets presented, nor would the criticisms be any more effective, unless we take stock of the situation between now and the next Budget, and apply our minds to the task that is ahead of us. The Finance Department, Sir, has been going on as usual.

“ There is one other factor that I wish to refer to, and that is the policy with regard to loans. I believe that it will be left to this committee that I have suggested to review the policy on loans, to decide what loans should be taken, and for what purposes loans should be given. There is the unfortunate tradition that has been handed down from generation to generation by previous Governments that loans are to be taken only for productive enterprises. I think the expression ‘productive enterprise’ has been very unfortunately defined. The Hon. the Finance Minister will correct

9th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar]

me if I am wrong. Education, public health and such other nation-building activities do not come under productive enterprise, because the Government or the day or the Finance Minister cannot, like a money-lender who sits in the bazaar, immediately cash his interest year by year. If you are to take a long-range view of the whole measure, you will see that there is no more productive enterprise, so far as Government financial resources are concerned, than a well regulated policy of education spread over the length and breadth of this country and a well-regulated policy of public health ensuring better health to the worker, which means better wages earned and better turnover of work and better improvement in sales-tax which the Hon. the Finance Minister has raised on two occasions. To that extent the loans that are applied for these will be as productive as any loans that you give to others.

Sir, I find that notwithstanding the change that has been effected after the 15th August 1947, to which member, after member has referred, and all of us have repeated *ad nauseum*, there is very little change in regard to the manner in which the departments are working. Every single department has got to go through the sieve of the Finance Department, and every single proposal, large or small, has to be vetted by the Finance Department, and it is only after that process has been gone through—a process that consumes an amount of labour quite incommensurate with the trouble taken, and a delay which is most unfortunate—that any scheme can possibly find the light of the day. I wish to suggest to the Hon. the Finance Minister the necessity to change this procedure. I do not wish to interfere with the Finance Minister's or the Finance Department's control over expenditure, for I believe we will not be sitting on the safety valve if we allow department after department to run amuck with expenditure. On the other hand, there is such a thing as recurring expenditure and such other things as non-recurring expenditure. Recurring expenditure can and most legitimately should be subjected to serious special study by the Finance Department, but when it comes to non-recurring expenditure, there is a certain amount of latitude that is possible, whereby the Finance Department actually take the steps which they take—nothing from page to page, sending it from member to member, till at last the proposal sent by the Minister in charge is vetted from the lowest grade clerk in the Finance Department right up to the Finance Secretary, before it comes to the Finance Minister.

“ Sir, my submission is this. There is a system known as block grant given for various purposes to various bodies. I claim to be very familiar with this system of block grants as one who has been connected with the University for the last 20 years. If only Government will consider the giving of block grants to the departments, they will be controlling all the recurring expenditure on the new schemes. I think this system of block grants will ensure a more quick method of disposal and will possibly be satisfactory both to the Hon. the Finance Minister as well as to the particular department concerned. I speak with a certain amount of knowledge, Sir, on this subject. If you take the Education Department

11-45
a.m.

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] [5th March 1948]

into consideration—The Hon. the Minister for Education will himself agree—that for the extension of education facilities, he has necessarily to approach the Finance Department to get the new schemes included in Part II Schemes at the last stage. Instead of this, if block grants were set up, Government will have no difficulty in proceeding with the new schemes with that amount immediately instead of waiting for the investigation and necessary financial adjustment. In this connexion, I may give one instance where I had to plead with the University Syndicate to postpone consideration on a matter pertaining to a Government institution till the middle of February, because necessary sanctions for carrying it out had not been finalized by the Finance Department although it had been approved by the Education Minister long ago. The work of such statutory bodies who have to conduct certain investigations on Government proposals is hampered very much because of the inordinate delay in the Government Secretariat. So, Sir, instead of waiting till the 31st October for the Part II Schemes, the system of block grants would be very useful in incurring expenditure on these new schemes and for their speedy execution. Again, there is also the additional advantage in these block grants, namely, neither the Minister nor the department will be entirely responsible for any criticism with regard to the incurring of expenditure on these new schemes.

Then, Sir, I have suggested on former occasions that Standing Committees to every department and every Minister must be constituted. If we constitute such Standing Committees from the members of both the Houses, it will greatly help the Ministry in a very large number of cases. I know there are Cabinet Sub-Committees formed from time to time but the Ministers' hands are full so far as their own work is concerned, and the Standing Committees will be very useful in giving the necessary advice. From time to time, Committees such as the Provincial Education Board are constituted to advise the Government. In the same way, Standing Committees for every department should be constituted for giving advice and assistance to the Ministers in the discharge of their duties. All that I am anxious is that a certain amount of expert advice is necessary and that advice can come only from such Standing Committees which I have suggested.

Then, Sir, another matter on which this House and the other House are interested is the question of retrenchment. Sir, much really has been made of the Retrenchment Committees. My hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, has already referred to it and said that the Retrenchment Committee's proposals have not been given effect to by the Government. It is not possible for the Retrenchment Committee to know the needs of every department. The departments naturally are not for any retrenchment. I venture to submit from personal experience that the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee is wrong in principle. Government, by appointing such a committee, force them to retrench certain people and they retrench such persons as the peons in the King's Institute about which my hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao took such a serious objection . . .

5th March 1948]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Our peons also."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Yes, of course, I sympathise with them also. What I say is that the Government need not take the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee very seriously. My point in submitting this is if the Retrenchment Committee were to make any proposals, those proposals should be examined and placed before the House and no action should be taken on those recommendations without proper scrutiny. Otherwise, the trend will be towards lopsided retrenchment and retrenchment will become the order of the day. After retrenchment, we will be in a worse position than before. I am speaking with some experience of Government offices and also as one connected with retrenchment on three different occasions in the course of twenty years. In saying this, I have no intention of devaluating the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee."

" Sir, a great deal of criticism has been levelled against the policy of control and de-control. I may tell the Hon. the Minister that different people have got different views in regard to controls and de-controls. One most important factor which we have to determine is whatever may be the policy of the Government, as I have stated on former occasions, the responsibility of the Government is to supply to the common man the ordinary necessities of life. I do not care whether you have controls or de-controls but do not come forward and say that de-control was accepted by the Government because it was the unanimous opinion of the members of this side of the House or both sides of the House. We have a responsibility to the people. At the same time, I must confess that the policy of control has unfortunately been a thorough failure. I know it has really been a thorough failure in the matter of cloth with the result when de-control of cloth is ordered—I am not a shop jay-walker at any time and I cannot afford to be one at this stage of my life but I understand from responsible ladies—(laughter)—that the shops are full of cloth and full of the varieties of wear so much so that people wondered where all these come from and whether they were underground until they were brought to light. That is going to be the policy of those people who want these controls. It seems to me that there is something to be said for de-control for the free movement of goods or the necessities of life which would probably prevent people from hoarding, profiteering or black-marketing. I say, the black-marketer thrives because everyone of us is bringing our judgment against black-marketing and the black-marketers are also joining that judgment ('hear, hear'), because that is the best method of making it appear that they are against black-marketing while at the same time carrying on their black-marketing. I have no hesitation in saying that if black-marketing prevails, we should make the Chambers of Commerce responsible for such black-marketing. I do not see any reason why the Chambers of Commerce should leave it to the Government to detect cases of black-marketing when they are in a position to control black-marketing. If they are not in a position to control this black-marketing, then let them abolish these Chambers of Commerce. I say, Sir, without any fear

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] [5th March 1948]

of contradiction, that there seems to be a number of people who, under the cover of the Chambers of Commerce, are profiteering or black-marketing. Sir, strong action is needed for these purposes.

Speaking about law and order, I see, Sir, my hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan has just gone and so, I wish to reserve my remarks about his Department till he comes and I will pass on to the next subject. I see, Sir, that the Hon. the Minister for Industries is not here because, unfortunately, he is not well; but I am sure the remarks that I am going to make with respect to his Department will be conveyed to him. Sir, the position to-day is with the poor resources in the matter of industrial development, our Province is much worse off than any other Province. The textile mills in Coimbatore are not working for a very long period. My information is that about thirty-two mills have had to be closed down and there is no possibility of an agreement and a prospect of these mills being started. Various discussions are taking place between the Government and the managements. I should like to ask what is the policy of the Government with regard to the industries. I realize that in a way it is a matter which has got to be negotiated with the Central Government also. I realize also that the policy of the Central Government in regard to this matter may have serious repercussions on what the Provincial Government may have to say. Sir, the Provincial Government must be given the position, in this as in many other subjects, to advise the Central Government—for, I know that and I say with definiteness on a matter which I would not ordinarily assert—that the Central Government is in very bad need of good advice on very important points. Take it from me that it will be folly on our part if on account of our feelings of loyalty or personal gratitude or personal veneration, we do not in the interests of the country and the common man, give them that advice and give them suggestions which they need in a respectful and firm manner, whether it is in the field of industry or any other field. Sir, the whole question of capital and labour will have to be gone into *de novo*, particularly after the 15th of August 1947 because we want labour and capital to be much more united than they have been before. I was reading only this morning an appeal made by the great capitalist, who knows about labour well, I mean Sir Ardeskar Dalal. Unfortunately, the trend has gone on and a series of political speeches are made by hon. Members with the result that capital is an anathema in this country. Somehow or other, an impression has gone abroad till the uneducated labourer has come to believe that the capitalist is the arch enemy of labour in this life and perhaps even in after-life. I want to say this and I am speaking subject to correction. Of course there are certain difficulties in this country. For, in other countries, for instance, the leaders of labour unions should themselves be persons who have been in that labour. It is one of the primary conditions of labour unions. If there is a railwaymen's labour union, the railwayman who has been an engine driver or the man shovelling coal ultimately gets into the position of a leader of the union instead of a prominent philanthropic gentleman with experience to lead. I know a Master of Arts of the University of

5th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar]

Madras was presiding over a Scavengers' Union but I feel more competent to be their leader than that gentleman for I have done some scavenging in my professional work. The Leader of the House will certainly agree with me when I say that labour differences and labour problems will be understood only by leaders who have come from labour itself because they will deal better in all negotiations concerning labour. I know I shall be criticised for this but I am indifferent to criticism on this matter.

Then, Sir, the second point is this. Arbitration should be well thought of in this country. I understand there is a panel of arbitrators. There are also arbitrators appointed on the spur after a strike has begun and there are also arbitrators who have been selected jointly both by capital and labour. But to my mind, it appears necessary that the Government should have a number of arbitrators as a panel and from that panel, they can select arbitrators for any particular arbitration. I may quote something as an illustration. My hon. Friend, Dr. Subbarayan who has got a keen interest in sports will not dislike my speaking on sports. In all games, to-day, the right persons are selected and a panel of referees is formed, whether it be for cricket, football, hockey or any other game and it is from that panel, people take particular persons when they want them. For, the great advantage of drawing up a panel of arbitrators is that when a strike situation develops you will not be accused of selecting this person or that person because both capital and labour would have agreed to the panel. Sir, it was very unfortunate that in the past the Government had not taken proper care in the selection of arbitrators. I value and I shall always value judicial temperament and experience. But I think that a person who does not know what is warp and what is woof should not be appointed an arbitrator for a textile dispute. It is necessary that the man should know the details of the trade. If the Government are going to draw up a panel of arbitrators, I ask them to bear in mind that arbitrators should be selected firstly for their knowledge of the intricate details of the trade and secondly for the judicial temperament that they would bring to bear on the question.

'Sir, I now come to the third point. If an arbitrator is appointed what is the duty of the Government? The arbitrator's award must be accepted and enforced both on labour and on capital. If the Government do not do that, they will be failing in their duty; they would be encouraging either the one or the other. Unfortunately, Sir, the whole of the textile dispute in Coimbatore is due to the blunder of the previous Ministry for which I do not hold the present Ministry responsible. I was aghast on a former occasion to find that when the arbitration tribunal had given its award, various other considerations came in and the Government somehow, from day to day interfered with the award of the tribunal. I think, Sir, that that was the worst thing they could do to both capital and labour. Sir, let me make it perfectly plain that you would never be able to settle a trade dispute if you enter into the arbitration of it. The proper course for the Government was not that. They had then a very experienced labour leader in charge

12
noon.

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] [5th March 1948]

of the labour portfolio, but I have to say that he did not fulfil our expectations. The proper course for the Government would have been to have had an appellate arbitration tribunal consisting of two or three persons, so that if the arbitrator's award is questioned either by labour or capital for any reason, the appellate tribunal will adjust the differences and give its final verdict. There is no other method of settling labour disputes. I want to make it very clear that unless you take this firm attitude, you will be ruining industries in this Province and creating a situation where you will not be able to maintain law and order notwithstanding the Home Guards; and even compulsory military training for ladies will not be able to help you! (Laughter.)

"Sir, there is one other point on which I speak with some little diffidence, but I am convinced that it is the proper approach if the country is to be salvaged. I want both capital and labour and also the Government to seriously consider this that unless there is profit-sharing motive for labour, there will always be difficulties arising. But how this profit-sharing motive is to be implemented is more than I can venture to suggest at present. Labour should have a voice and an interest in the returns on capital. Even in Government concerns, I venture to suggest that it is a wise policy, because the Government are now taking many industries in the simple belief that when once they take them up, everything will be flowing with the milk of human kindness and the whole temperament of the people would change, as we thought it would change after the 15th of August. But Sir, I being very practical and trying to be a realistic person have no such vision.

"Sir, I now come to the portfolios the consideration of which I have deferred for some little time—Law and Order, Home and Judicial. I wish to assure the Hon. the Home Minister that this House will always lend its full support to any measures that Government feel compelled to take to suppress grave disorders. On a former occasion when a Bill was under discussion in this House, I said that so far as we are concerned there is no equivocation on our part in the willing co-operation that we extend to the Government in any measure that they might find it necessary to pass, temporarily we hope, for the suppression of grave disorders. We welcome the appointment of the Home Guards and we are happy about the assurance given by the Hon. the Home Minister that the Home Guards would be raised everywhere without any tinge of political, communal, religious or other considerations. We hope that everybody will be freely admitted provided as I laid emphasis on a former occasion, we are satisfied that he has the proper temperament and the sense of discipline so essential for an army like this.

"Sir, I regret to have to state that grave crime is on the increase. I had just a few days ago the privilege of looking into the Administration Report of the Police Department. Speaking on Administration Reports, might I say this? I do not think this Government have yet issued their Administration Report. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'It is under preparation.') May I

5th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar]

know for what year? (Interruption) Sir, the beauty of the Administration Report is that it is always sent out long after the year has passed. I have got the Administration Report for 1946-47 in the month of grace, March 1948, when people would have forgotten everything about the events and when persons who issued the Administration Report may or may not be present to receive our just praise. (Laughter.) I understand that the reason for this is that voluminous statistics have got to be prepared and, therefore, months and years elapse before the report is published. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'The accounts have got to be prepared.') I suggest that the Government should issue the Administration Report first and publish the statistics later on. The Government know that we do not want these elaborate statistics and that nobody peruses them because they are so prepared that nobody can understand them unless he is a Master of Arts in Statistics. What is required of the Administration Report is the essence of administration, the measures of administration, the policies of administration and the difficulties of administration of the year preceding. There should be no difficulty whatever—whether it be the financial year or the calendar year—in any department of the Government issuing its Administration Report within the first quarter after the conclusion of that year. I know it can be done, Sir.

" Sir, I was saying that grave crime was on the increase. If you take murder for instance, a little over 50 per cent of the crimes were detected and the rest were undetected. My point in bringing this to the notice of the Hon. Home Minister is that while the police are not in a position to get abreast of the latest developments in regard to detection of crime, the criminals are rapidly advancing in the methods of committing crime, thanks to the facilities of the cinema theatre. I suggest that proper facilities are placed at the disposal of the Investigation department to detect crime at as early a stage as possible. Two measures are necessary for this. Firstly, in view of the fact that crime is being committed on lines in which it is committed in western countries, some police officers should be sent to foreign countries to get special training in methods of criminal investigation. Secondly it is necessary to implement the scientific advances in regard to detection of crime, without which crime detection will be a very difficult task. It is futile to criticise the police without giving them the sinews of war. I know some attempts have been made in recent years. I am not oblivious to the fact. But they are not sufficient to produce the results we have a right to expect.

" Sir, in this connexion I wish to recall to your minds that hon. Members have occasionally felt that they were not in a position to support a measure which conferred a great amount of—shall I say—authority on the police officers. Then the Members on the Treasury Bench have generally said that it is not right that we should have no confidence in the police. Sir, it is not a question of having no confidence in the police. It is only a question whether certain police officers of a lower grade can rise above the temptations

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] [5th March 1948]

and the prejudices of the moment and discharge their duties in a manner in which we expect them to discharge them. Sir, if we could have no confidence in our leaders, why should it be said that in the case of the police we should have so much confidence as to feel sure that a sub-inspector or a constable will necessarily discharge his duties in the light of the impression the Hon. the Mover of the bill has about the way in which he should discharge his duties? I am afraid, that it would be asking too much. It is not fair to them. That is the only reason why we occasionally say that we shall examine the things in the light of the impression of the Ministers.

“ Sir, I now come to a very important subject. The Hon. the Finance Minister has referred to the question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive which has been hanging fire for a long time. During the preceding Ministry the question was exhaustively enquired into according to their lights and I understand that proposals are now before the Government. Sir, what is the object of this reform of the separation of the judiciary from the executive which has been agitating the public? It is not that they had such grave doubts about the executive; it is not that they thought that the judiciary were such perfect paragons of virtue. But they felt that it would lead to better administration of justice all over, and that with the implementation of the recommendations, the judiciary will be the pivotal point on which the whole fabric of the State should depend.

“ Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Law is perfectly aware that the success of a democracy depends upon three fundamental principles, the most important of which is that the judiciary will be above all questions of control, of suspicion and distrust and that it will be, like Caesar's wife, not merely incorruptible but above the faintest trace of corruption. I use the word ‘corruption’ in its widest and best conception. The other two of course, we all know: an efficient Treasury Bench and a more efficient Opposition to keep the Treasury Bench steady in their seats with a backbone behind. I regret therefore that the previous Ministry did not constitute a proper committee to look into this question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive. I feel a little diffident to speak on this subject with you in the Chair, Mr. President, but I hope you will give me some indulgence. I do not mean to pass any serious criticism. They are just the remarks from a layman. Sir, with regard to this question the Government thought that it was only a committee of judges and advocates who could settle this question of the separation of the executive from the judiciary. Sir, it was not for the sake of the judges and the advocates that we wanted it. It is for the common man. Therefore I feel that the very constitution of the Committee was wrong in principle because you have not put any member of the public on it. I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition who is looking fiercely at me is supporting me or not on this point. (Interruption by Dr. V. K. John.) After the change of leadership I have been feeling a little diffident in the matter.

5th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshminaraswami Mudaliar]

" Sir, I understand from the remarks of the former Minister for Law that all these posts should be given only to members of the legal profession, and that although there might be many eminent persons who were discharging their judicial duties satisfactorily, who had passed the necessary tests and about whom there was no reproach at all, it was the intention of the then Government to summarily dismiss them and appoint only the members of the legal profession. I can understand the Hon. the Law Minister who is himself a distinguished member of the legal profession must necessarily think of his own class, but at the same time I would suggest that it is not fair that persons who have been discharging their duties efficiently as judicial officers should be summarily relieved of their posts.

" I can understand the relieving of all Collectors or Deputy collectors of their magisterial functions. I do not think it is right that he should have taken the attitude that everybody who was in quasi-judicial department should be relieved.

" Sir, I said before, and I repeat it now, that the essence of democracy is the strengthening of its judiciary. We have now an Indian as the officiating Chief Justice and I hope we shall have the opportunity of having an Indian as the permanent Chief Justice.

" It seems to me that there are certain reforms that are necessary and that lay men who have got to be unfortunately litigants have felt about this: when I say this I do not ascribe any motive to anybody nor that everything is wrong with the judicial administration in this Province. Sometimes the public are under the impression that justice may not be available to us unless certain steps are taken. I submit that even that impression should not be in the mind of the public. When you have separated the judiciary from the Executive, Government should have no control over the judiciary. I wish to make it clear that unless you have a responsible body of person or persons to look into the administration of this province with greater care, there is likely to be delay in justice, sometimes justice may be misplaced and sometimes abused. Regularity and punctuality ought to be the *sine qua non* in all judicial courts. Here I am sorry I have to refer to a recent judgment of an Hon. Justice of the Madras High Court. I hope the Hon. the Law Minister would have carefully seen it. This was when a sub-magistrate who took two or three hours, i.e., from about 5 to 8 p.m. prolonged the case till 8 p.m. and disposed it of. This was a case pertaining to some 77 accused and he convicted them all. All this was done on the same day of the occurrence. The Hon. the Law Minister is supposed to take note of all these irregularities and take suitable action. However certain influential gentlemen who were interested in these accused preferred an appeal to the High Court. The High Court in reversing the judgment of the magistrate passed serious strictures over the action of the magistrate for the manner in which he conducted the case. I venture to suggest that this is not the only case and it is fortunate that this one case has come before the High Court, but there are many others which do not see the light of day at all. I will not

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] [5th March 1948]

trouble the House by dwelling on this subject at very great length. However I may refer to one other thing. In 1946 in the United States of America, great sensation prevailed in the minds of the judiciary, the public and the press in regard to the trial of a particular case. This was a sensational case because the person who appeared on behalf of the client concerned in the case happened to have been the partner of the Presiding Judge in that case. It was in the year 1932 that he was a partner and yet when this case came before him in 1946 there was a hue and cry and an appeal was made before the highest Tribunal—the High Court. The High Court said that although they could not interfere, yet they added that it was not correct that a person who once happened to be the partner of the Presiding Judge should have conducted the case before him. I would ask the hon. the Law Member to draw his own inference from the analogy I have just quoted.

“ Sir, we are now going to re-orientate the judicial policy in this Presidency, and when we do so, we should see that no person who is intimately related to a presiding judge should ever appear before him either in a civil or criminal case. I venture to suggest with some emphasis that even the impression should not be there in the mind of the clients or the public whether the presiding judges will be biassed or not. From these statements I should not be understood to make any reflection on the part of any particular judge here in this Province.

“ Some years ago in the High Court here unfortunately there was an impression that an advocate who was a relative to a presiding judge was appearing before him in a particular case and the papers were wont to publish the name of the particular advocate and the name of the presiding judge, till at last the whole case file was changed over by the Chief Justice from that particular bench to another bench. Now there is the question of separation of executive and judiciary looming large before the public and I wish to commend these suggestions for the consideration of the Government. I am sure that Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and other members of the judiciary will welcome generally the principle I have ventured to suggest. On that score I am not going to dwell further on this subject because I am afraid I am treading on dangerous grounds.

“ With regard to the Bar Association I may assure you that they are doing a great deal of good work and I am anxious that as they are the persons connected with judicial administration they should not be overburdened with other kinds of work, because there are other problems which the ordinary citizens have got to face and which these lawyers and the bar associations are expected to champion on their behalf and they are rightly expected to do so, but occasionally it so happens that they deal with other matters and in such matters relating to the public there is a certain amount of friction. It is not desirable.

“ The Members of the Bar Association have every right to take part in judicial matters. I belong to the medical profession and I have every right to take part in everything with regard to medical

5th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar]

affairs and medical politics; so also lawyers with regard to legal affairs and legal politics, and particularly what I think is that whatever may be the nature of the legislation

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I suppose you have got to speak under certain other heads still (looking at the clock).”

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Yes, Sir. With regard to legal jurisdiction the inherent right of courts over persons and properties should not be taken away by any legislation. Repeatedly criticisms have been offered in this House and the other House that an attempt is being made to take away the rights of citizens by acts of Legislature. Democracy being what it is, and with its necessary and varying denominations in this Province, I would respectfully suggest to hon. Members of Government the necessity, as they are the first prominent political party, to usher in a scheme of democracy, to lay down such healthy traditions that it will not be possible for the successors of the same party or any other party to interfere with these fundamental rights. In that connexion I regret to bring to your notice the judgment of the Hon. High Court wherein trenchant remarks have been made with regard to Governmental interference in matters of a judicial or a quasi judicial nature. This is what they say :—

The learned Advocate-General suggested that G.O. No. 3898 was issued in the interests of the public but there is an entire absence of any reference to those interests in it. The expression “ interests of the public ” which is found in the Act relates to the interests of the travelling public for whose convenience and need stage carriages are provided. The manner in which the interests of that public were benefited by the Government Order was not explained.

In my opinion that Government Order was issued without any right or authority and it was naked of any legality and the Boards were under no obligation to obey it.

“ I am sure the Hon. the Minister for Transport and the Hon. the Minister for Law are fully aware of the particular judgment which I have quoted just now. I respectfully submit that it is very essential that the Government, whatever their rule-making powers may be, should have restricted powers, because if those powers are used in an unlimited manner, you will be taking away the whole scheme of proper administration of any department of Government. I was not present when an amending act was introduced here with regard to this particular subject, but I regret all the more that instead of taking up the suggestions of the High Court quite gladly and instead of attempting to sustain that judgment which went to protect the rights of the ordinary citizen, there should be an attempt to perpetuate these defects by another piece of legislation. I will not take up any more time on this subject because there will be opportunities for me to refer to this on some future occasion.

“ I now come to the last of my topics. The Education Minister has set out the Provincial Educational policy. Many

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar] [5th March 1948]

suggestions had been placed before this scheme was introduced and I know the Education Minister has given his reasons for the introduction of this scheme. I have not therefore many remarks to offer, but I saw in the papers day before yesterday a proposal or a suggestion that aided colleges should have advisory committees appointed for them. I am sure the scheme has been put forward with the best of intentions. I have visited every aided college within my own area and I may say I am intimately acquainted with all the problems of management, the principals and professors. While there is the problem of management, the problems of students are always before us. I therefore appeal to the Hon. Minister—it is not an advice—to reconsider the position, because the implementing of these advisory bodies will produce a situation wherein the students, the staff and the management will each try to get control. Unfortunately in this country many organizations are at present trying to get control over collegiate education. I know in a particular place the various political parties tried to get control. We know the very Ministry of this Province was in a tottering condition then and an appeal was made to the University but fortunately the University adopted an impartial attitude and its final decision was largely responsible to create a calm atmosphere and produce a workable system for that college. I feel, while the intentions in suggesting these committees are very good, a reconsideration of this subject will convince all that the very constitution of these committees will produce more dissensions instead of promoting concord. I would ask the Hon. Minister to consult every institution and I am sure it will be of the same opinion as mine. I am making these statements on the strength of the statements made to me personally by principals and managements.

“I now come to a subject where I must speak frankly, viz., the reference made by Mrs. M. N. Clubwalla that the military training which is now given to boys should also be given to girls. I do not know the exact details of the report which has been presented on this subject. I must say that this subject of military training in schools and colleges has now to be looked after by the Defence Department of the Dominion Government. What might have been our impression on 15th August is certainly not my impression after the 30th January. I said from my place in the Senate with regard to the University Officers' training, that while it is desirable to extend the University Officers' training. I would not be a party to the University controlling that training. Any such control should be taken up by the Defence Department of the Government of India and it should be under their guidance, supervision and control. If these fundamentals are missed, I am sure that the day will not be far off, when in view of the political developments that are taking place in our country, there will be pocket armies, leading to unfortunate results. I am not against military training. The scheme which the Government of India have contemplated, viz., Junior Cadet Corps is an excellent one. On the other hand I feel that physical training should be encouraged. Let me not be misunderstood if I say that the Provincial Government will not be well advised in taking up this responsibility whatever their good intentions may be.

5th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar]

" Sir; I do not wish to refer at great length to the subject on which Mrs. Hensman has spoken with such brilliance, that is, about grants. The position at present is, more schools and colleges are necessary, whether those schools are going to be technical or academic or whether they are going to be more Arts and Science colleges, professional colleges and colleges of various other descriptions. And although I must confess with gratitude that the general public have shown a great deal of consideration, I feel that unless the Government come forward with some grants it will not be possible for anybody to progress along the lines on which the subject ought to progress. 12-30 p.m.

" Sir, the Hon. Minister for Public Health knows the views of the medical profession and I am grateful to him for accepting their advice on all essential points, but there is only one difficulty, as it is also for the Educational Minister, and that is, they are anxious to accept all our advice, provided it does not trench upon the finances of the Government. It is an excellent piece of advice that both of them have given us and to the limited extent it has been possible. We have been giving the advice—what may be called honorary advice in an honorary capacity.

" Sir, Mr. Bhima Rao is not present here to-day. He was referring the other day to the necessity of training licentiates, the less qualified men of the medical profession and he referred in this connexion to the Bhore Committee. I wish to make it perfectly clear that the whole of the medical profession—and none more emphatic than the Licentiates' Association themselves—is against the revival of the licentiates' course. My hon. Friend, Dr. Rajan, is being congratulated every year for the excellent thing that he did as soon as he came into office by abolishing the licentiates' course, and it will be a great pity that during his membership of the Cabinet anything like that should again be revived. Sir, my point is simple. There is an impression that the village folk who suffer from disease want a little remedy, whereas the town folk on account of their dress and other habits require more from the medical profession. The fact is, whether it is malaria, typhoid or appendicitis, unfortunately nature makes no difference between the rich and the poor or between the urban and rural worker and it is all the more necessary that in the rural areas they should have competent advice. We feel that such competent advice would be available only with the basic training to which the Bhore Committee have referred and if such advice is given the villager will recover much more promptly and spend much less. A scheme has been despatched to the Hon. Minister for Medical Relief where in spite of the difficulties it will be possible for the doctor to be made available to the rural population and if only the Transport Minister comes to our rescue and the Public Works Minister comes forward with his highways and byeways there will be no difficulty in the rural population getting into touch with expert medical advice that they need.

" Sir, my hon. Friend in charge of Prohibition and Nationalization of Transport is an enthusiast in that direction and on the 31st of October 1948 I hope there will be a great gathering to

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar] [5th March 1948]

congratulate him on the historic event that he will usher into existence. (A voice : ' 2nd October, i.e., Gandhiji's birthday.') I, am sorry, it is on 2nd October. Sir, I have made it clear that once this policy has been accepted I wholeheartedly support it, but I want to mention this, that prohibition is creating great complexities and a headache for the Hon. the Home Minister because of the offences which are already on the increase. The number of offences that are being perpetrated are all offences in regard to illicit production of drink and I want to make the position clear. Do not take the number of illicit drinking in the previous report and compare it with this year's report. Illicit drinking offences according to the previous report, were either with the individual or the form of illicit drinking and the present report may be in respect of an establishment trying to 'profiteer'. That was the reason that boot-legging has come to stay in other countries. What will be the result? We will have to suffer in the long-run once this boot-legging is allowed to develop. Some of those armed and rowdy people will be let loose on society and there will then be the greatest amount of danger."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know what is the derivative meaning of boot-legging? "

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It is an American expression, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I know it."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" My hon. Friend, Dr. Subbarayan, who is generally familiar with such expressions will explain it in his speech in the afternoon."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" With all due deference Sir, I may mention, there are 13 volumes of the Oxford dictionary in the Library of the Legislature and the word ' boot-legging ' is fully dealt with in that dictionary."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You don't expect me to read all the 13 volumes. I would like to know what the generic meaning of the word is."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I shall refer to it and let you know, Sir. (Laughter.) Sir, I am glad this Government is so very solicitous about the moral welfare of the people. They want to observe the Ten Commandments : ' Thou shall not drink ; thou shall not bet ' and various other things are coming from the Hon. the Home Minister and I wish those commandments were also applied to the Government. ' Thou shall not expropriate ' is a very good thing which the Government themselves should copy. (The Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao : ' It is not in the Ten Commandments '.) I hope the Hon. Revenue Minister is not unaware that ' thou shall not steal ' is one of the Commandments. (Laughter.) I ventured to put it in the mildest form possible, ' thou shall not expropriate.' (Dr. V. K. John : ' There is also another Commandment, " thou shall not covet other people's

5th March 1948] [Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar]

property'.') My hon. Friend, Dr. John, is very familiar with the Bible, I know. Sir, it is expropriation. I would request the Hon. Minister for Transport also to know that in his zeal for nationalization of transport, let him not lightly consider those essential proprietorial rights of other people. Nationalization does not mean that the rights of private persons in any sense should be disturbed or taken away. On the other hand, the State should have one moral law for all; it should not be different between one man and another, whether it be between individuals and individuals or whether it be between the State and the individual. Short of that you can have any legislation. You can have the whole bus services in the Presidency under your control; you can have agrarian reforms or any other reform to your heart's content but you should keep this fundamental principle in mind and state how you are going to carry it out.

" Sir, I have almost come to the end of my remarks and I do not want to trouble the House any further, except to say this. The times are not very bad and the situation is by no means as it ought to be and we realize it. I would like to ask the Hon. Ministers on the Treasury Bench to take the House into confidence and see that every time there is anything abnormal we should not be, when we are sitting in the Legislature, privileged to see press reports about some very great event that has taken place in our own Province. I know, Sir, the Hon. Home Minister knows, to what I am referring and I do not want to go into details for the reasons which you know, but I think it ought to be one of the considerations which must weigh with the Government at all times that whenever there is a serious development in the Province, their first duty must be to the Legislature and it must not be given to us to read reports appearing in the press—excellent reports perhaps, reports given under dictation perhaps of some of the speeches made here and there which bring in new problems to the Province. But, we are entitled to ask, what is it that you are doing, how is it you are going to face the situation which is likely to develop. I do not want to say much further on that, because my object is not to embarrass the Government—it was never to embarrass the Government—but only to ask the Government to give this House the information that it ought to get. I wish to state further that whatever may be the conditions, it is always well for the Provincial Government to make its representations fully known to the Centre and to have those contacts with them which are so essential, because the decisions of the Centre which are likely to have repercussions on this Province, must be joint decisions and not dictated decisions. I venture to make this suggestion, for I know the Hon. the Home Minister and the Hon. the Premier are quite alive to the situation and they will take note of it.

" Sir, I would only commend and I hope and trust that whatever may be the differences—of course, I am not touching upon any tender point—we shall have a settled form of Government in this Province and that the persons who are elected to the Legislature will realize their responsibilities and feel that that settled form of

[Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar] [5th March 1948]

Government means a certain amount of permanency to the occupants of the Treasury Bench, free from light criticism and a dispassionate consideration of both their difficulties and their defects. In this hope I would like to commend to the Government the discussions that are taking place in this House."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I did not want to interrupt the hon. Member in the middle of his speech when he referred to Caesar's wife. What about other wives?"

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I did not know that Caesar had more than one wife., Sir." (Laughter.)

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, before offering my remarks on the Budget that has been presented for the consideration of this House, I would like to congratulate the Government and particularly the Education Minister, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiyar and also the Hon. the Finance Minister, Mr. Jopala Reddi, for having made provision in the Budget for starting an Intermediate College in Cuddapah. I do not want to go at this stage into the history of starting this College at Cuddapah, but it is sufficient for me to say, that all the efforts we took in the past were in vain and it was left to this Government to start an Intermediate College in Cuddapah. At the same time, I would also like to congratulate Mr. Bhaktavatsalam, the Hon. Minister for Public Works, for having taken over the Cuddapah Electricity Supply Corporation. The House is perhaps not aware that the Cuddapah Electricity Corporation had not been functioning properly for the last one and a half years and it was very difficult for the people of Cuddapah either to get drinking water or lighting and it was really very kind of the Hon. Minister for Public Works for having induced the present Government to take over its management and for having assured the supply of electricity to the people of Cuddapah in a very short time. I want to convey here the thanks of the people of Cuddapah for the good that has been done to them by the Government.

" Now, Sir, having said that much, there is one difficulty to which I would like to refer. My hon. Friend, Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, has pointed out that it is rather difficult for a Government to proceed only by way of distributing grants and doles as occasions arise, that is, by following the method of the previous Governments in giving relief whenever there has been a deficiency and so on. I thought that with the advent of Independence after the 15th August 1947, Government would change their policy. Of course, there has been a change, I should say, in regard to two matters as stated in the speech of the Hon. Finance Minister. One is the nationalization of the bus transport and the other one is in regard to Education, according to which every district will have a college and every taluk a high school. To that extent, it is true that it is a departure from the previous Budgets, but I should say that the same policy should be extended not only in regard to these two things but to the other things also.

5th March 1948] [Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

"Hitherto, the policy of Government has been, as I said, not to do a particular thing in pursuance of the particular policy enunciated previously but to do things as occasion arises resulting in haphazard development and growth. Government did not take upon itself the duty of providing elementary education or secondary education or collegiate education. Between local bodies and municipalities, powers had been divided and revenues distributed and neither Government nor the local bodies had taken the trouble to do their duty properly and there has been failure in so many directions, especially so in the backward areas like Rayalaseema, from which I come. The whole question, as has been pointed out by many hon. Members, revolves upon the question of finance. If you are not able to supply the necessary finance, service of one kind or other suffers. I recall to mind the passage from the speech made by Benjamin Disraeli in the middle of the 19th Century when talking about conditions in England then. 'In England, there was not one nation but two nations, the one powerful and the other powerless, the poor and the rich and the privileged and the under-privileged.' The conditions portrayed in England by Disraeli in the middle of the 19th Century apply in all force to the conditions prevalent in the Rayalaseema. We have two sets of people, the more advanced, the more educated, the rich, the less advanced, the less educated and the poor. It is not a question of mere education alone. If it had been a question of mere education alone, it would not have mattered much. But with education goes a number of other privileges. Education in its wake brings economic betterment. It is a passport to services and a passport for so many things. If one wants to improve one's country, it is necessary that people should have education. If a nation has to grow to its full stature, the people must be educated. On account of want of facilities for education, the backward areas like Rayalaseema have not been able to advance to the extent that others have.

"Sir, I will just illustrate one or two instances. With regard to the irrigation schemes that are now under contemplation, it is rather unfortunate that the higher appointments in the Engineering department either go to people from the north or the southern districts. The Hon. Minister for Public Works is aware of it. We are really glad that he has created what is called the Statutory Irrigation Board in order to scrutinize schemes in the first stage which would be useful and beneficial to the people and after their acceptance and recommendations, it comes up before the Government. I happened to be present at one or two meetings. We sent up proposals recommending that a particular job might be taken up for execution. What happens is that the Executive Engineer who happens to be a Secretary of the Board comes forward with the reply that the scheme has not been investigated. He says, "I have not had the necessary staff because the person posted is on leave and is not likely to come back". When it was put to him, whether it was because the particular officer does not belong to these parts and was not interested in these schemes and whether they were merely marking time; he said, he thought

12-45
p.m.

[Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

[5th March 1948]

it was so and that many people are not coming here and therefore the schemes are held up. If that were so, is it not necessary that some of those people who belong to those particular districts should be recruited for those services so that they may be made to serve those districts. Otherwise, many of the irrigation schemes cannot be investigated or estimated and taken to the notice of the Government at all.

" Sir, I wish, at this juncture, to refer to the points raised by Mr. Bhima Rao and by Mr. Suryanarayana Rao with regard to the question of admission of boys into the Medical and Technical colleges. A complaint has been made that boys are not being admitted into colleges on merit and that those who have not got merit are being admitted, and that therefore the administration is suffering. 'Merit' is a very difficult term to define and I do not know what distinguished educationists or medical authorities will say with regard to it. No doubt, people agree that a man might inherit a particular amount of intelligence but environment has got a lot to do with one's intellectual development. In the same manner, if proper conditions had been created and facilities afforded to the people living in backward areas, you can expect the same amount of intellect and intelligence as other people have. And if that is not done what happens is, facilities for education are restricted and people who have got influence get a start in life. They will get admissions into colleges and people from backward areas will not get admission. After all, what are the colleges we have got. There is one college in Kurnool started with the donation of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad and I do not know how that college is functioning. I am really very grateful to the Government for the provision for starting an Intermediate College this year. We have got another at Anantapur and the fourth is at Bellary which is not working very satisfactorily. If that be the state of affairs, how can we expect the Rayalaseema to come up and compete with other people in education. Till facilities are given, till equal opportunities are given to them, it is not possible to uplift them and some reservation must be made. It is not a question of turning out really meritorious people. It is a question of giving opportunities to people who never had any and if they could make the best of the opportunity, certainly they could also improve. Sir, it was said that those people who get a high number of marks have got merit. I doubt the proposition that the boy who secures a high number of marks, has really got merit; he has some merit. That is not the only criterion or the sole criterion for giving admission to colleges when facilities for education are not universal and when everyone cannot get education. I give one instance. Last year, in the case of admission to the Medical College, First-class Intermediates and B.Sc.s joined the Medical College in the Pre-Registration Class. But 40 per cent of these people have failed. All of them have secured high marks and many of them are First Class Intermediates and even B.Sc.s. How could they, who have secured such high number of marks, fail to get the required number of marks in the Pre-Registration Examination which had been held only six months

5th March 1948] [Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

after their admission. Therefore, I beg to submit, Sir, that this is one of the considerations. It should not be taken as the end-all and be-all for determining whether a boy is competent or not. My hon. Friend Mr. Bhima Rao waxed eloquent saying: 'The Provincial Government has committed a great sin in not following the recommendations of the Bhore Committee, namely, of reserving 30 per cent of these seats for candidates with merit.' But he forgot to mention that the Bhore Committee also said that medical colleges ought to be started in one of the places in the Ceded Districts. They knew the difficulty that till a medical college was started, people in those areas could not take advantage of this profession. When you deny us the benefit of the other provision, it is not proper to put into practice the other recommendations regarding reservation for merit. If you want to follow implicitly to the very letter, the recommendations of the Bhore Committee, follow it, start medical colleges as they said, so that people in our parts may have the chance of getting into those medical colleges. This Government have pursued the right policy regarding this disreservation of seats and that is the only proper policy to be pursued. Between local bodies and the Provincial Government, the common man's needs and his welfare are forgotten. Secondary education, elementary education and collegiate education are distributed between those two bodies, simply because some people were not able to come forward with the necessary contribution that the Government was demanding for giving grants. What happened was that all the schools and colleges were started only in places which were rich and the other places which could not afford to give the contribution did not have the chance of getting a college. I submit, Sir, that that should not be the policy.

" Sir, reference has been made to the Report of the Rural Water-supply and Drainage Scheme Committee. It has submitted a very exhaustive report. That Committee was asked to go into the question of providing water-supply and urban drainage and see how that could be best executed and financed. I submit, Sir, the unanimous recommendation of that Committee was that inasmuch as local bodies and municipalities were incompetent to discharge their duties for more than one reason, the whole responsibility should be taken up by the Provincial Government. Whatever that might be raised by levying cess or tax in connexion with water-supply and drainage, should be pooled into a provincial fund to be distributed to those municipalities or local bodies as the case may be, and they are to be the agents of the Provincial Government. Water-supply and drainage, they said, ought to be the main concern of the Provincial Government and not municipalities or district boards. Otherwise, these poor districts will suffer. Arguments will be advanced saying: Are we not taking away the initiative from these local bodies and prevent them from exercising their powers? What I say is that till people are brought to a particular stage, this question of centralization or decentralization should not at all trouble this Government. The main idea should be how to improve the economic condition of the people,

[Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

[5th March 1948]

how to improve the educational facilities and how to provide them with drainage and water-supply schemes. The question of the exercise of power ought not to enter into the consideration of the problem. The important recommendation that was made by the Committee was that the provision of pure drinking water to all the people in this Province, must be the concern of the Provincial Government. That principle, I think, should be extended not only to water-supply but to education, public health, medical and other schemes which are necessary for the well-being of the ordinary man. Some difficulty arises with regard to hospitals. Contributions are made by very rich people in the south or the north and hospitals come into existence. The Hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has mentioned that in some places, the Government have not been able to accept offers of generous donations for construction of hospitals on account of the high cost of materials. It is a very strange proposition. If the Government are not able to get the necessary materials for construction of hospitals, I do not know who else can get materials. The Government have all the powers in their hands and if with all that, they are to decline the donations, I submit, Sir, it is not proper. I think they can readily accept these donations. I do not know how the position stands now."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We have since ordered that it may be accepted."

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"The hon. Sir Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar said that so far as diseases were concerned, there was no distinction between man and man."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think you may stop now and you can continue the speech after lunch."

The House then adjourned to meet again after lunch.

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I will have to ration time. I hope you will finish in fifteen minutes."

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Twenty minutes, Sir. I shall bargain for another five minutes."

"Sir, maintenance of hospitals should be completely taken over by the Provincial Government instead of being left to local bodies and the policy should not be in supplying deficiencies that would occur in case they are run by private charity.

"Sir, I was saying that so far as diseases are concerned, they do not make any difference between the rich and the poor. It is the poor that suffer more from diseases on account of under-nourishment or malnutrition. The diseases, therefore, are more rampant in backward areas than in the richer parts of the Province. They cannot undertake long pilgrimages to places like Madras for their treatment. I therefore plead that every district and taluk headquarter hospital should be equipped with the latest appliances

5th March 1948] [Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

and X-Ray apparatus. The Cuddapah District headquarter hospital which is a Government hospital, has no X-Ray apparatus. The other day, in a press interview, I found that the Hon. Minister for Public Health said that every district and taluk headquarter hospital will be supplied with X-Ray apparatus. But I do not see any provision being made for it in the Budget. Anyway, I hope that these hospitals will be supplied with X-Ray apparatus at no distant date.

"Sir, The Provincial Government has accepted responsibility for secondary and elementary education. Local philanthropists have started some high schools from their own finances and in the Cuddapah district they have constructed big buildings but have not been able to extend them. I submit to the Government that some building grants should be given to them towards improvement and also a portion of the cost of buildings that have already been constructed. I find from the speech of the Hon. Finance Minister that in future, grants for schools intended for boys will be given. That policy had been given up some years ago and it has been revived. I am glad and I congratulate the Government on reviving that policy. Otherwise, many secondary schools will not come into existence.

"The Hon. Finance Minister said in his Budget speech that he is awaiting the report of the Developmental Commissioner for Rayalaseema. I would like to submit for the consideration of this House that the Developmental Commissioner will be only a co-ordinating officer and that so far as schemes are concerned, he will not be in any way a better person, than the Ceded districts Economic Advisory Board. That Board has been functioning for the last four or five years and many schemes have been put forward by the Board. I know that many schemes have been sanctioned and for which provision could have been made in the Budget. There is the Badvel Tank which ought to get supply of water from Sogileru river. They have been agitating for this for the last ten or twelve years. At one time it was said that so far as Cuddapah district is concerned, the test of return has been given up and that they were only concerned to see whether a particular scheme will be useful or will confer advantage to the people in the district. So far as this tank is concerned, it will give 1 per cent return and still that scheme has not been taken up. Then, there is the Pullampet Scheme also. It does not also find any place in this Budget. I see in ever so many places, the Government is swearing by the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes. They say, 'we are providing so much here and so much there'. But when it comes to the question of providing for schemes in Cuddapah, they forget entirely the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"The scheme is not yet ready."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Are you forgetting the other districts in Rayalaseema?"

[5th March 1948]

SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ I would not forget. Because we have got facts and figures and how can I forget? (Laughter.) I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme Report where it is said that so far as the Gandikotta scheme is concerned, it will be taken up for execution in 1947-48 and that is a scheme which benefits not only Cuddapah but also Nellore district. Not one pie has been provided for that project in the Budget. That is a report prepared by Heads of Departments sitting for a long time and nothing has been said against it. I find that a token provision has been made in the Budget for the Ramapadasagar Project and the full demand will come before the House in due course. With regard to the Kistna-Pennar Project, they have only sanctioned the preliminary investigation and there is no further provision for it. I am not envious of the provision made for the Ramapadasagar Project but my only complaint is that though Gandikotta Scheme has been mentioned in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme nothing has been done about it till now. So that suspicion is roused in the minds of people and they feel that there is no justification for keeping quiet. They only want that a big amount of 10 crores of rupees should be set apart in the Budget for the economic improvement of the Ceded districts. I do not know when the Sangameswarain Project will come into being and even if it does which districts it would benefit. It was said with regard to the Tungabhadra Project that it would benefit all the Ceded districts but we see that it is benefiting a portion of Kurnool and Bellary districts only. What I am suggesting, therefore, is that we need not wait for the report of the Development Commissioner. Even now if you want you can set apart ten crores of rupees for the economic development of the Ceded districts. So far as Rayalaseema is concerned, most of the tracts are dry and people have not got much employment, and so they have plenty of leisure and our Communist and Labour friends will not be tired of fighting. But here is a case where they have leisure without any trouble at all; the question is how they are going to utilize their leisure. They are not utilizing it in a profitable manner. The country is poor and they are not in a position to improve their economic condition. So they indulge in frequent quarrels and fights and fights are carried on from generation to generation. The State does not step in before the fight actually starts; it only steps in when a crime has been committed. The investigations are started and matters go before the Court and the culprit is convicted. My submission is: why not we start earlier to interfere? We have seen the warnings that were given before the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. The air was thick with rumour that Gandhiji's doctrine was not liked by certain sections of the people and the man that assassinated Mahatmaji is not an ordinary person; he is an enlightened man; he is the editor of a daily patrika. Why did he do it. The atmosphere was like that. People could have taken the warning and acted. In the same manner, you should not wait till the whole thing flares up and people indulge in violent acts. The magistrate and the police should see that the moment there is some trouble,

5th March 1948] [Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

they should go to the place and settle the differences; otherwise, it will gather momentum and things will develop. (An Hon. Member: 'Do you suggest the starting of security proceedings?') Security proceedings do not touch the problem at all and I will even go to the extent of saying that your convictions will not solve the problem. I am not suggesting that there should be no courts, no Police but what I am saying is that it will never solve the problem and that the only solution lies in resolving differences by means of consent and agreement. What is it that makes people fight? Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar was in a way criticising the actions of the Police and said that they were acting in such a manner that to trust them with power may not be proper. Every occasion on which a Bill is introduced clothing the police with powers, it is said that there has been change of heart on the part of the police along with the transfer of power or the independence of the Government on the 15th August 1947. But evidence does not show that there has been a change of mentality so far as the police officials are concerned. The Cuddapah District Congress Committee complained a number of times about the ill-doings or misdeeds of the Police on a number of occasions. Petitions have been sent to Government which have been in the usual course sent to the Collector or the District Superintendent of Police for enquiry. But the result of the enquiry has always been that the allegations mentioned in petitions were false. It may be that the enquiry conformed to formalities and procedure but the feeling of the people is that justice has not been done. Instead of the old method of enquiry a new method should be started. If you are going to enquire into such things, you have your own District Magistrate or Superintendents, on whom you rely. My submission is: Have people you can rely on get their confidential reports and take action on the basis of that; the corrupt person could not be got at through the procedure that you adopt in courts; you need not wait for the judicial enquiry; punish even on suspicion. I am not saying that human beings have not got their likes and dislikes. By following the tortuous procedure of judicial enquiry, letting in evidence, and examination of witnesses, many people will escape. It is true that some people may suffer by the method I suggest. This is a case of administration; this is not a case of enquiry. If you don't like a person remove him. What does a private person do? Does he hold an enquiry and record evidence, if he is not satisfied with him? Why not do the same thing here also? I do not believe every Government subordinate is a bad servant. Just as we believe that generally all officers are honest, on that basis you can accept the report of the district officer, and act on it.

3-15
P.M.

"I will now advert to another matter. The police officials are trying to conceal their incompetence by doing so many things. For example, I was perusing the Police Administration Report the other day, and I found a number of serious crimes reported in my district. But that is not the monopoly of Cuddapah district. There are other districts which compete with that. (Laughter.) But you find in Cuddapah district alone punitive Police stationed. Punitive

[Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

[5th March 1948]

tax has been levied on the whole village, because the police are not able to get any evidence of crime. Punitive tax is never meant to be used in that way. It is levied to maintain peace and order in the village. When they are able to maintain peace and order in other parts of the Presidency where also serious crimes are happening, why not they follow that same procedure in Cuddapah? I find from past records reports made by district officers are approved *in toto* by the Government. They do not enquire whether it is necessary at all. It is from that point of view I say, as I said the other day also at the time of discussion of the Suppression of Disturbances Bill, that you are really giving very dangerous power in the hands of the Police. At this rate the final result, after the act has been done, alone will show whether the act is justified.

One word about nationalization schemes. I welcome the proposal. I am only sorry, along with nationalization of buses, Government did not take all the electric concerns. I feel this nationalization of electric concerns should have been given top priority. Various inefficient concerns are now working in the Presidency. One of such concerns is that of Proddattur. These concerns do not want Government to nationalize electricity. If any scheme is put up, they do not prepare the estimates; and so between the concern and the Government, the people suffer. Any number of wells can be dug and water drawn from there through electric power. But I know nothing has been done in that direction so far. I submit these private concerns should be taken over by Government. If it cannot be done without legislation I would request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to introduce legislation immediately for taking over such concerns to do real benefit for the people.

One thing more I have to say, and that is with regard to the Highway Department. It is a new-born babe. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister has got any fondness. Till recently roads and water-supply were in the hands of district boards. The district boards had an engineering department under their control, and now after the formation of the Highway Department, the whole engineering department is now out of their hands, with the result, that now the district boards have no technical staff even to prepare estimates for the construction of school buildings. I do not know what the necessity is to have so many departments in the engineering department. There may be some justification for the existence of separate engineering departments during the diarchic regime. The difficulty comes this way: by division of functions, one officer goes along the road and he sees a building in a state of disrepair. He says it is not his concern to look to. I will give one instance. Some time back the Hon. Finance Minister was touring in the Cuddapah district. He was pleased to say in one of his addresses that he was willing to provide necessary financial help for the construction of a science block for the Jammalamadugu High School. This happened in July 1947. I communicated this to the authorities concerned. The plan was prepared after the lapse of five or six months. It was sent to the

5th March 1948] [Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

Director of Public Instruction. Probably the Government did not agree with the plan, and so it was sent back. And to this day, after that, nothing has been done. In this way, though funds were given, due to the apathy of the officers, we were not able to take advantage of it. We were thankful to you for providing with funds; at the same time it is your duty to see that the funds allotted are utilized for the purpose for which they are given and not allowed to lapse. Cuddapah district has to surrender all the grants this year for lack of engineering help. This is a matter well within the knowledge of the Ministry, and therefore what I urge is they should take early steps to see that the provision made in the budget is actually spent in the year.

"Sir, the work of the Ministry will be judged by the way in which the administrative machinery moves. No doubt several enactments have been passed. Mere passing of measures will not confer any benefit on the people. It is for them to see that those measures are enforced by the administrative machinery. Otherwise we will never see any of our schemes coming through.

"Sir, mention was made regarding the provision of tractors. I have been trying to find out where these tractors are and what they are doing. I have not been able to get any information. Several people have been making efforts to secure their use but with no success. So they have indented for one such tractor for themselves. Very many of our peasants are small agriculturists. They cannot go in for a tractor of their own. If you are going to improve agriculture and if you want to help agriculturists, it is better you help them to form co-operative societies and purchase tractors on hire purchase system. Unless some sort of compulsion is brought this scheme will not be started."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has exceeded the time-limit."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Cuddapah district is a badly treated district."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"That is why I have given some more time."

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Sir, I shall finish soon. Sir, I see for Minor Irrigation Schemes the amount has been increased from 17 lakhs to 37 lakhs. It is a welcome feature; but what I deplore is, there is no provision in it for Cuddapah district. (Laughter.)

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Evidently you are not in need." (Laughter.)

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"We are in need of schemes; but the engineers do not prepare the estimates; they say the schemes are costly; they are unremunerative, and so they say, 'why waste money in preparing estimates', and in this way they knock the

[Sri N. Ranga Reddi] [5th March 1948]

schemes on the head. So I request the Government to issue instructions to the engineers to prepare the estimates irrespective of their cost. I hope till we get the major projects we will be given some of the minor irrigation projects.

"Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has said something about the formation of Andhra Province. I may state that I am not opposed to the formation of the Andhra Province. But I will say that while Andhra Province comes into existence, the Ceded districts want some safeguards to be incorporated—some safeguards for the Rayalaseema."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Not in this Budget, I suppose."
(Laughter.)

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"No; in that constitution. The Hon. Finance Minister is aware of what is called 'Sree Bagh Pact', which says . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member need not go into that."

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"My submission is . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. Member has dealt with it at length on the resolution on the formation of linguistic provinces."

SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Then I will say one word about it and stop. I say, we should be consulted at the time of formation of the province. It is our duty to tell the powers-that-be, whoever they may be, that the Rayalaseema people consent to the formation of the province only with provision of safeguards mentioned in the Sree Bagh Pact. Otherwise they are not prepared to co-operate or prepared to be in the Andhra Province."

"One word more, Sir. I know the Hon. Finance Minister has taken very great pains to tide over the present crisis in the province. Considering the difficulties he has to surmount I think he is entitled to our congratulations, and I hope by the time the next year's budget is presented they will disappear and he will make greater provisions for the Rayalaseema in that budget."

3-30
p.m.

*SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, at the outset I wish to congratulate the Government and the Hon. Finance Minister on their decision to introduce prohibition throughout the Province from October next."

"Coming to the budget proper, I cannot understand why the scheme of State trading has been put under Revenue Account. It will mean that the capital included under Revenue Account can be treated light-heartedly. But the Government should conserve all capital assets and account for and explain every item of waste or depreciation that occurs therein."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Every item of expenditure is scrutinized by the Standing Finance Committee, the Accountant-General, and the Auditor-General."

5th March 1948]

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—“ Rice, wheat and other purchased foodgrains enumerated under Demand XXXIX (page 597) are all assets. It is not understandable why such assets should be written under Revenue Account.

“ Expenditure on State Trading Schemes should have been placed in the Capital Account until the whole account is wiped off, or the loss in every year must be ascertained and put under Revenue Account. Having put the whole in the Revenue Account, they treat it as a loss. I want the amount to be taken away from the Revenue Account and put in Capital Account.

“ I suggest that the Government should secure the services of the Indian Audit and Account Service to examine the whole scheme of State trading from the time it was taken up by the Advisers and to report to the Ministry.

“ Next I like to refer to some general aspects of the administration. On the model of the Government of India I suggest that for every portfolio held by the Ministers an Advisory Council composed partly of members of Legislature and partly of expert opinion from outside should be constituted so that the Government may have the benefit of having all shades of opinion before they launch any new schemes or decide any question of policy.

“ Coming to details, no attempt has been made to rationalize the administration. The interests of efficiency and service to the public demand a simplification of the administration, a rationalization of the Secretariat, and a drastic reduction in the number of officers employed in the metropolis. The preliminary report of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee is already before the Government. It has dealt with the general working of about seven departments, besides special pay, conveyance allowance, etc. I plead that the recommendations may be given effect to at an early date, thus saving about 1 crore of rupees a year.

“ As a landowner, I am alive to the dangers of the Government's interference in our economy. The report of the Special Officer appointed to investigate land tenure in ryotwari areas is under examination by the Government. We have no idea of the financial implications of the abolition of the zamindaris and estates that are covered by the Madras Estates Land Act. We are hearing the utterances of the Hon. Revenue Minister hinting radical changes in the land tenure in ryotwari areas. We are not averse to the complete overhauling of the land revenue system and placing land tax on a statutory basis, while levying a tax on the net value of the produce sold, subject to a reasonable minimum. We are having plenty of troubles with our labourers, who have been all along loyal and contented, thanks to the Communist agitators. If these agitations are allowed to gather momentum, the cost of production of foodgrains will go up and the quantity of production will go down considerably. I like to warn that the Government are illadvised in disturbing a long established system of tenure without fully examining the implications and consequences on the efficiency of agriculture and food production.

[Sri K. Manathunainatha Desigar] [5th March 1948]

" Sir, I now come to the subject which is engaging the attention of all the people of the Province and even of the whole country, namely, food. In February 1946, our Province was faced with exactly the same critical food situation as it is faced with this year owing to the failure of north-east monsoon and cyclone in the Northern Circars. The Government then introduced stern measures of rationing and procurement throughout the Province. But this year after having lifted controls and abolished rationing, the Province is faced with famine owing to the failure of north-east monsoon and with the prospect of getting a lesser quantity of foodgrains from the Government of India. The reserve stocks with the people have been taken away during the procurement drive last year. Various Government communiques issued during the last one month show that scarcity is being felt already in the deficit districts and the latest communiqué shows that procurement has begun to fall. The stocks in villages are flowing very fastly into urban areas, and within a few months, say by May, there will be acute scarcity both in urban and rural areas, and the price will be so high that it will be beyond the reach of the common man. I think we have not yet developed a sense of emergency about this problem. I like to know whether the Government have built up a reserve in each deficit district and whether they are satisfied that there is equitable and proper distribution of foodgrains, especially the imports in the deficit areas, from the point of view of the poor non-producer.

" Let me make a few suggestions in this connexion. A Famine Commissioner should be appointed with necessary staff to be in charge of distribution of imported foodgrains in the deficit districts. If the Government find it inconvenient, some of the members of the Government can take charge of the supervision of distribution in the deficit districts. As for augmenting the food resources of the country, I like to urge that through the medium of the Central Government, a quantity of at least 10 lakhs of tons should be imported. The necessary funds can be transferred from the Revenue Reserve Fund from which some amount has already been drawn. I wish the difficulty that may be created by the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organizations' Conference may be overcome through the intervention of the Central Government.

" Sir, next I like to refer to the Grow More Food campaign. Neither provision for expenditure on the campaign nor the area brought under new cultivation can be a satisfactory solution. We have to find out how many tons of additional food are produced. I am sorry to find that the abovementioned campaign has not really augmented the food resources of the country. As an instance, I quote the answer of the Hon. Minister for Public Works to my question on 21st February 1948 on the floor of this House that out of 64,600 acres that have been brought under cultivation during the faslis 1354 and 1355, only 16,500 acres were assessed for water charge. The chief reason given by the Hon. Minister for not bringing under cultivation a larger extent of land is that, since the special staff who persuaded the ryots to cultivate has

5th March 1948] [Sri K. Manathunainatha Desigar]

been disbanded, the ryots lost enthusiasm. I have already pleaded for a thorough investigation to find out how far the Grow More Food campaign has helped the production drive and what remedies have to be adopted in places where it is found disappointing. I wish to urge that the experience gained in working the schemes already carried out should be fully utilized in the proposed schemes to rectify all defects and adopt all precautions.

"Already there is a proposal to extend the area under Cauvery in the districts of Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. I do not know how far it will help the production drive, when it is found from the answer given by the Hon. Minister for Public Works to my question, that a large area was not cultivated in fasli 1356 in the Cauvery-Mettur Project area owing to delay in the supply of water. Here it is relevant to point out that water-supply in 1356 was delayed only by two or three weeks, that the Cauvery-Mettur Project area is situated on a higher level, that most of the cultivation is usually done only in the latter half of the season and that the north-east monsoon was a success that year. Then there is the question of the nature of the soil which was given as another reason. I like to know whether all these factors have been examined in the case of new schemes.

"Sir, it is a known fact that fish forms an important item of substitute food. I find that no provision has been made for any scheme to multiply the supply of fish. I find from the Administration Report for 1945-46—that is the latest which is available with us—that schemes relating to the supply of smoked fish and cured fish proved a failure, as there was no demand. I shall read a small extract from the report :

"It was however decided to continue production for popularising smoked and cured fish among the civil population. A scheme to this end was sanctioned . . . and Messrs. Essential Services Company of Calicut were appointed as sole selling agents. Production was started in eight centres on the West Coast and two on the East Coast early in November 1945. As the agents could not in spite of strenuous efforts push through the sale of smoked fish as the demand for such fish is very limited, large-scale production was suspended after two months. In the meanwhile, anticipating a keen demand for cured fish, for distribution in famine areas as a rationed article for augmenting the supply of food, all centres went into active production of cured fish and a total quantity of 85,036 lb. was manufactured. As the anticipation did not materialize, production of cured fish by the department was given up and the quantity of fish already cured disposed of at the most favourable rates."

I like to know, Sir, what further steps the Government took to popularize the same and to increase production at this critical time when famine is threatening.

"For the maintenance of communications by the Highways Department, lesser amounts have been provided than those provided by the district boards when they were in charge of the same. Village roads have considerably deteriorated after they were taken away from the control of the District Boards, thereby dissociating the non-official agency.

"Lastly, Sir, I request that the recommendations of the Water-supply and Drainage Committee may be given effect to at an early date."

[5th March 1948]

SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—“ Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government in general and the Hon. Finance Minister in particular on having presented an artistic budget in an artistic manner with an artistic speech.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I suppose your speech also will be equally artistic if you stop here.”

SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—“ In many respects the budget conforms to the constructive programme of the Congress. On that account I am sure there will be an all-round appreciation of the budget.

“ I come from a district which is (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi : ‘ Very near Cuddapah. ’) (Laughter.) very near Cuddapah, namely, Anantapur, in Rayalaseema. There used to be famine in that district every year. This year also there is famine. A Member of the Board of Revenue visited my district and toured some of the areas. I am sure he will recommend to the Government, the opening of some famine relief works besides the usual remission.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I think there must be something in the name ‘ Anantam ’.”

SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—“ I think famine also is anantam there. The Government are very particular in spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on famine relief. But they do not even think of giving permanent relief to the district. Whenever we speak in this House, we bring to the notice of the Government the acute conditions prevailing in the district and beg them to give permanent relief so that the unwelcome visitor, the famine, may be banished from the district permanently. I am glad to note that provision for some projects in my district has been made in the budget. But, whether the works will be started this year remains to be seen. Some local papers of my district have already expressed some suspicion that the works may not be commenced this year though provision has been made in the budget and that they may be taken up only some years later. The urgency for executing the works is there. Hon. Ministers who have visited my district know that it requires permanent relief. The provision made in the budget is not enough for our district. The biggest project for which we have been agitating for and for which provision has been made will irrigate only 8,000 acres.

“ Our district is adjacent to the Mysore State; only ridges separate our fields from those of the Mysore State ryots. In the Mysore border, electricity is available and every ryot is installing a pump to bale out water. Only a few yards away on this side water is lifted for cultivation purposes with the aid of picota and similar appliances. The Prime Minister of Mysore State visited our district on the 26th February in connection with some high school celebrations. I, Sri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddi and Sri Kallur Subbarao discussed with him the feasibility of the State supplying electric power to our district. He was kind enough to give us a definite assurance that the State would be willing to

• 5th March 1948] [Sri G. Venkata Reddi]

supply electric power provided the Madras Government took the necessary steps. The State is going to take electric power through the Hindupur Municipal area in the Anantapur district to the Palacole taluk in the Mysore State.

“ We want that our Government should start negotiations with the Mysore State and see that they extend their electricity connections to our district. On the previous budget discussions also, I emphasised the same point and urged the Government to start negotiations with the Mysore Government and give electricity to us, but nothing has been done yet. 2-45
a.m.

“ We are told that sub-soil water exists in our district. We know that sub-soil water exists and if that water is brought up with the aid of electricity, much of our difficulties would be solved. If that is given, we would not much worry about these projects, because water will not flow in these channels even for a few days in the year. For the last three years, we have been crying that electricity should be brought to our district, but our cry has been in the wilderness. This electricity is the most primary thing for our district which is a poor and famine-stricken district.

“ Then Sir, regarding irrigation, the Hon. Finance Minister has stated at page 51 of his speech that the Government have sanctioned the preliminary investigation of the Kistna-Pennar Project and that they attach very great importance to this Project, because it would bring great benefits to the Rayalaseema and considerably reduce its liability to serious famine. I am sure, Sir, the Project, when it is constructed, will bring all the lands in the Kurnool district and a portion of the Cuddapah district also under cultivation. We have no doubt about it. But we are also told that Nellore, Chingleput and North Arcot districts are going to be brought under the Project. If that is so, what we are concerned with is that priority should be given to Rayalaseema and that the Government should see the people of the Ceded districts are benefited out of this Project first, before the needs of the other districts are attended to.” (Interruption.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member need not be diverted by the interruptions by his side.”

SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—“ I was saying, Sir, that this Kistna-Pennar Project which is intended mainly to benefit the people of Rayalaseema should be taken up as early as possible and I particularly request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to see that priority is given to our districts.

“ Then Sir, as regards industries, as I have already stated, the people of Rayalaseema are poverty-stricken and they have no capital to start new industries themselves. The Government should therefore come to their help and give state aid for starting industries, or start industries themselves, enlisting the support of the wealthy people there, although they are only very few.

“ As regards the opening of an Engineering College at Anantapur, I have specially to thank the Hon. Minister for Education who has promised that the college will be opened in the

[Sri G. Venkata Reddi] [5th March 1948]

month of June next. I am told that necessary equipments are not yet available, but I hope that the Government will be able to rush them up to the College before it is opened, so that the boys may not sit there idly.

" I have also to thank the Hon. Minister for Public Works for having shown in the budget some other projects for the district and I request him to start them as early as possible, so that he could relieve the suspicion in the minds of the people that the people of Rayalaseema are not neglected.

" Lastly Sir, on behalf of the people of the Rayalaseema who are living in the borders of the Nizam's State, all I wish to say is this. We are hearing very often from the Hon. Home Minister, both in this House and elsewhere that if the people in the border are panicky, the Government could not help it; and he also warned us not to get panicky, because a Government behind a panicky people would themselves get panicky. I want to know from him what he meant by panicky people. Does he mean that the people who are most law abiding and who are unarmed should not look forward to the Government for help or that the Government is not in a position to rush the necessary police and military protection to the people in the border? These people have been sending memorials and representations to the Government asking them to provide the border areas with armed guards and it is the duty of the Government to do so. I do not see anything panicky in this. As a matter of fact, I can assure the Hon. Minister for Home that the people in the border are not at all panicky. They are as valiant as any other people in the Province. (Hear, hear.) I should like the Hon. Home Minister just to read the history of the resurrection of the National Movement under the leadership of Narayana Reddi of Cuddapah and the way in which he fought against the British Imperialism and how valiantly he conducted the movement and distinguished himself. But it does not mean that the Government should keep quiet. Let sufficient help and reinforcements be rushed to the spot where dangers and troubles are apprehended and let confidence be restored in the minds of the people of the border, that the Government are there to help them, in times of emergency. That is the way that the Government should act in this emergency and not simply tell the people, 'Oh' you cannot get panicky; if you get panicky, the Government will also get panicky, and all that. They are law-abiding citizens and they simply cannot take law into their own hands and go and fight with the raiders from the Nizam's State. It is the duty of the Government to afford necessary police and military protection. I may also, in this connection, request the Hon. Minister for Home just to see that licences are given to some of the border people to carry fire-arms where there is greater danger. We do not ask that all the people in the border should be armed. Only certain people in some of the villages may be entrusted with guns and fire-arms, so that they may infuse confidence among the people. That does not mean that you will be creating a Fascist organization or that a Fascist organization will spring up in Rayalaseema, if some people are armed. Fascist organizations

5th March 1948] [Sri G. Venkata Reddi]

can have no place in these days of democratic ideas and it will not grow in our soil. The people of Rayalaseema are the most law-abiding and democratic people and they will never subscribe to the Fascist creed, nor will they join in any organization which tends towards Fascism. I once again request the Hon. Home Minister that he may be pleased to see that at least some reinforcements are sent to the border, so that the people there may be safeguarded. With these words, Sir, I support the Budget."

SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI:—"ఆధ్యక్షా, గౌ. ఆర్థిక మంత్రిగారు ఈ కాన్సిలు సభకు 1948-49 వ సంవత్సరం బడ్జెటును తన సహజ సాహిత్య మాధుర్యమును, ఉన్నతా దర్శాలను వెలిబుచ్చుచూ నిపుణతతో నిర్మాణ కార్యక్రమమునకు దోహదము యిచ్చి బడ్జెటును సమర్పించి సందూకు వారిని నేను ఆధీనపించుచున్నాను.

"మహాత్మా గాంధీగారి ఆదేశానుసారముగ, మద్యపాన నిషేధమును పూర్తిముగా మన రాజధానిలో ప్రవేశ పెట్టి, మద్యపానమువలన క్షయింపబడిన పోషకములను దుస్థితినుంచి తొలగించి వారిని నైతిక ఆర్థిక జీవనోపాయములను కల్పించి ఉన్నత స్థితికి తెచ్చుటకు సంకల్పించిన మంత్రవర్గమును నేనంతయు కొనియాడుచున్నాను. ఇప్పుడు మద్యపాన నిషేధమునకుగాను ఏర్పాటుచేసిన ప్రాపిటికా డిపార్టుమెంటును పూర్ణముగా లీనివేసి, వారిలోని మంచివారిని తీసుకొని పోలీసు డిపార్టుమెంటులో కలిపి, పోలీసు డిపార్టుమెంటు ఈ పనిని సెలవేయవచ్చు ఉత్తరువులు జారీచేయుట చాలా మంచిది. ఇట్లు చేయుటవలన ప్రభుత్వమునకు కొన్ని యేల రూపాయలు మిగులుటచే కాక లంచగొండితనమును చాలావరకు తగ్గించిన వారగుదురు.

"ఆహారపదార్థములకు కంట్రోలు పూర్తిగా తొలగించుట ఆశ్చర్యకరము. మహాత్మా గాంధీగారి నిరంతర కృషిచే కంట్రోలు విధానము రద్దుచేయుట ప్రభుత్వము వారు ప్రారంభించిరి. కంట్రోలు రద్దుపరచిన వస్తువుల విషయమై ప్రజలు చాలా సంతోషిని కనబరచుచున్నారు. ప్రజలకు కలిగే యిబ్బందులను తొలగించుటకున్నూ, వారికి ఆహారపదార్థములను విరివిగా దొరుకునట్లు చేయుటకున్నూ మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు వెంటనే ఆహారవస్తువులపై కంట్రోలు పూర్తిగా రద్దుచేయవలెనని నేను కోరుచున్నాను.

"నా స్వంత జిల్లా యగు నెల్లూరు, నెల్లూరు, కోపూరు తాలూకాలలో పండిన ధాన్యమును, పంటలు బొత్తిగా లేని జిల్లాలోని యితర తాలూకాలలోనికి ధాన్యమును పోషక నిష్పాదించుటవలన ఆ తాలూకాలలోని ప్రజలు చాలా బాధలకు లోనగుచున్నారు. ఈ విషయమై మేము ప్రభుత్వవారికి నివేదించి, సదరు తాలూకాలకు ప్రస్తుతము వుండే నిషేధము తొలగించవలసినదిగా కోరియున్నాము. ఇంతవరకు ఈ విషయమై ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఏమీ ఉత్తరువులు జారీ చేయుటకుట చాలా శోధనీయము. ప్రక్క తాలూకాలలో పంటలులేక ప్రజలు బాధపడుచున్నప్పుడు వారికి ఆహారమునకు కావలసిన ధాన్యము తీసుకొనిపోవుటకు సగులులు చేయక, పండిన తాలూకాలలోనుంచి ధాన్యమును యితర జిల్లాలకు ప్రభుత్వము ఎగుమతి చేయుటకు ఉత్తరువులు యిచ్చుట మంచిది కాదు. అంతేకాక మా జిల్లాలోని తరుగు తాలూకాలకు వియ్యము ఏతాదేపల్లిగూడెంనుంచే తెప్పించి యిస్తున్నారు. ఈ వియ్యం అంత మంచి రకము కాదు. పైగా ధర ఎక్కువ. పంటలులేని తాలూకాల వారికి వర్తకుల ద్వారా వియ్యము సరై చేసి, హెచ్చు ధరలలో వారికి వర్తకుల ద్వారా వారివారి ఉపయోగార్థమై వారలై రైతులవద్ద కొనుగోలుచేయుటకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఆవకాశము యిచ్చిన యెడల, పండిన తాలూకాలలోని ప్రజలకు కలుగు యిబ్బందులను

[Sri L. Subbarama Reddi]

[5th March 1948]

తీర్చివారిగుదురు జిల్లానుంచి ధాన్యము బయటకు పోవుట నిషేధించినను, తాలూకాల మధ్యని పేథము తరుణమే తొలగించవలెను. పంటలు పండగా రైతుల విత్తనములు సహజ, పండిన తాలూకాలనుంచి తీసుకపోవలసినట్లున్నది. కాబట్టి ఆహార పదార్థముల నిషేధము తొలగించి సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరలో ఆహారశాఖనుగూడా ఎత్తివేయించిన ప్రభుత్వమునకు ఆర్థికముగా లాభమేగాక, విపత్తముగా పెరిగిపోయిన ఈ లంచనాండితనము గూడా కొంతవరకు తగ్గించిన వారగుదురు. ప్రజల బాధలు తగ్గించినవారగుదురు ఈ విషయం మంత్రిగారితో మనచిరుకుకొన్నాము. వారిని ఈవిషయముల గురించి శ్రద్ధగా ఆలోచించవలసినదిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“నా స్నేహితులు నారాయణ రావుగారు నెల్లూరు జిల్లావారికి యిచ్చినట్లుగా గోదావరి జిల్లావారికి కూడా సన్న ధాన్యంకు హెచ్చు ధర యివ్వవలసినది చెప్పినారు. నా ఆభిప్రాయము ప్రభుత్వంవారు నెల్లూరు జిల్లా మొలకొలుకలకు ధాన్యంకు హెచ్చు ధర యివ్వలేదనే మాకు యింకా తక్కువ ధరే యిచ్చారని చెప్పక తప్పదు. 1947వ సంవత్సరంలో నెల్లూరు జిల్లా మొలకొలుకలకు మణుగుకు ధర రూ 9-12-0 లు వున్నది. అప్పుడు గోదావరి జిల్లాల సన్న రకములకు రూ 8-15-0 లు వున్నది. అప్పుడు కూడా మణుగుకు ఆ 13 లు లేదా వున్నది. కాని గవర్నమెంటువారు డిసెంబరు 7 వ లేదీడంచి బోనస్ తీసివేసి ధరలు పెంచారు. ఈ హెచ్చు ధర మణుగుకు రూ 2 లు అని ప్రకటించారు. కాని మా జిల్లా మొలకొలుకలకు, గోదావరి జిల్లా సన్న రకాలకు కూడా ఒకే విధముగా మణుగుకు రూ 11-1-0 లు అని ప్రకటించారు. మణుగుకు రూ 2 లు చొప్పున హెచ్చుచేస్తే మాకు రూ 11-12-0 లు రావాలి కాని రూ 11-1-0 లు అని ప్రకటించుటకులైన మాకు దండగపెట్టొందని, ఇతర జిల్లాలవారికి మణుగుకు రూ 2 లు హెచ్చుచేస్తే మాకు రూ 1-5-0 లేవచ్చినదని మంత్రిగారితో చెప్పుకొన్నాము. దానిమీద వారు మాకు మణుగుకు రూ 11-9-3 లు ఇచ్చారు. కాని మాకు న్యాయంగా రూ 11-12-0 లు రావాలి. కాబట్టి మాకు హెచ్చు ధర యిప్పించవలసినదిగా ప్రభుత్వంవాని కోరుతున్నాను.

“మొదటినుంచి కూడా మా జిల్లా ధాన్యానికి హెచ్చు ధర యిస్తున్నారు. దీనికి కారణం మా మొలకొలుకులు మంచి రకం. మా జిల్లా బియ్యం వండిచూడండి. ఇతర జిల్లాల బియ్యం వండి చూడండి. ఇతర జిల్లాల బియ్యం వంటి, 3, 4 గంటల తరువాత చూచినట్లయితే అన్నము నీరు కారిపోతుంది. కాని మా జిల్లా బియ్యముతో వండిన అన్నము సురుచటి రోజు దాక ఆల్లాగే ఉంటుంది. ఈ విషయం గుర్తించే Adviser ల ప్రభుత్వం వున్నప్పటినుంచి మాకు హెచ్చు ధరలు ఇస్తున్నారు. కాని మాకు ఇప్పుడు ఇచ్చుచున్న ధర న్యాయమైన ధరకన్న మణుగుకు ఆ 3 లు తక్కువ. కాబట్టి ఈ ఆన్యాయమును తొలగించెదరిని ఆశించుచున్నాను.

“మా జిల్లాలో ఆసుపత్రులు చాలా హీనస్థితిలో ఉన్నవి. ఒక నెల్లూరు headquarters ఆసుపత్రి తప్ప వేరే చెప్పవగినది ఒక్కటియు లేదు. జిల్లా బోర్డు ఆసుపత్రులకు సంవత్సరానికి రూ 500, 600 ల విలువగల మందులు మాత్రమే ఇస్తారు. ఈ మాత్రము మందులు సాపోవు. అందువలన ఈ ఆసుపత్రులు ప్రజలకు హెచ్చు ఉపయోగకరంగా లేవు. కాబట్టి వీటిని ప్రభుత్వమువారు తీసుకొని ప్రజలకు ఆరోగ్య విషయంలో ఇబ్బందులు లేకుండా ఈ ఆసుపత్రులను మంచి స్థితిలో ఉండునట్లు చూడవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఈ మధ్య ఆరోగ్య శాఖ మంత్రిగారు (Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty గారు) మా జిల్లాకు వేంచేసినపుడు వారిని కోవూరు తాలూకా headquarters కు తీసుకొని

5th March 1948] [Sri L. Subbarama Reddi]

పోయి అచ్చట చాలా హిస్టరీలో, పూరికప్పుతో ఉన్న డిస్పెన్సరీని చూపించి దీనిని ఒక ఆసుపత్రిగా మార్చి ఒక Assistant Surgeon ను అచ్చట నియమించ వలసినదని వారిని కోరినాడు. కాని ఇంతవరకు ఈ విషయమై ఏమిన్ని జరుగలేదు.

“బుచ్చిరెడ్డివారం వద్దయి కనిగిరి నిజారాయ్ లో నీరు అధిక వర్షముల వలన వచ్చిన నీరు పోవుటకు రేడియల్ పట్టర్నును ఏర్పాటు చేసియున్నారు. కాని సడల నీరు పోవుటకు మరిదేఖ సరిగా రిపేరుచేసి నీరు పోవుటకు వసతి కలుగ చేయలేదు. అందువలన తెలుగు నీరు ఎత్తినపుడు, మరిదేఖలో నీరు ప్రకమముగా పోక బుచ్చిరెడ్డివారం గ్రామములోనికి ప్రవహించి ప్రక్కనవున్న బీదవారి ఇండ్లు చాలా పడిపోవుటవలన వారికి చాలా నష్టకష్టములు కలుగుచున్నవి. ఈ విషయమై మేము ఎన్నియో పర్యాయములు ప్రభుత్వమువారికి మనవి చేసియున్నాము. కాబట్టి మరిదేఖని రిపేరు చేయుటకున్నూ, గ్రామము మధ్యవుండు అట్లడను పెంచుటకున్నూ ఇంతవరకు ఏర్పాట్లు ఏమియు కరుగలేదు. ఈ విషయమై ప్రభుత్వమువారు తగు శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొనవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“క్యస్టో-వెన్యూర్ ప్రాజెక్టు investigation జరిపించడానికి ప్రభుత్వంవారు చాలా ఆశక్తులై ఉన్నారని చెప్పియున్నారు. ఇది చాలా సంకోచకరమైన విషయం. యా జిల్లాలోని అన్ని తాలూకాలన్న వేనుకడదీని ఉడయగిరి తాలూకా అని అందరికీ తెలిసినటువంటిది. ఈ ఉడయగిరి తాలూకా ఈ ప్రాజెక్టువల్లకూడా బాగు పడదు అందువల్ల ఈ తాలూకాలో గండిపాలెం ప్రాజెక్టు విషయమై ప్రభుత్వము వారు తగు శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొని త్వరలో ఆ ప్రాజెక్టును నిర్మించి అచ్చటి ప్రజలకు సాగునీడి వసతులను కలుగచేయుట చాలా అవసరము. కాబట్టి ఈ విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వంవారు తగిన శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొనవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఈనాడు ప్రభుత్వ అధీనులలో ఉపేక్షాభావము అధికముగా ఉన్నది. ఒక కాగి తాన్ని అధీనుకు వుండిన సమాధానాలు రావడానికి చాలాకాలము పడుతోంది. ఇటువంటి ఉపేక్షా భావాలను నిరూపించడం ప్రభుత్వ ధర్మము. కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వము వారు ఈ విషయమై శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొనవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“మన దేశం చిటిమ పరిపాలన క్రింద ఉన్నప్పుడు Revenue Board ను ఏర్పాటుచేశారు. ఈ Revenue Board వారు Board's Standing Order లను చాలా పూర్వకాలంలో తయారుచేసివున్నారు. ఈ Board's Standing Order లు రైతుకు చాలా నష్టమును కలిగించేటటువంటి వాటిగానే ఉన్నాయి. కాబట్టి ఈ విషయాలన్నీంటిని పరిశీలించుటకుగానూ, ఒక కమిటీని సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరలో ఏర్పాటు చేయించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“Harijan uplift కు కొన్ని లక్షలను ఖర్చుచేయి దలచినామని చెప్పియున్నారు. హరిజన హాస్టల్స్ కట్టుటకై ప్రభుత్వమువారు గవర్నమెంటు స్థలములను ఆలస్యము లేక వారికి ఉచితముగా యిచ్చి ప్రోత్సహించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను. డెబ్బా గ్రామములలో అనారోగ్యకరముగావున్న మాలవాడల విషయములలో ప్రభుత్వము తగు శ్రద్ధ వహించి వారికి తగు స్థలములను ఉచితముగా యిప్పించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను. ప్రస్తుతమువున్న హరిజనవాడలు కొన్ని చాలా అనారోగ్యకరమై నివాసయోగ్యములు కాక యున్నవి.

“జిల్లా బోర్డులు ఇప్పుడు ఉంకవరకే తీసినేయవలెనో అనే విషయం ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఆలోచనలో ఉన్నది. ప్రస్తుతము ఈ జిల్లా బోర్డులు డెబ్బా కలెక్టర్స్ చేతు లలో ఉన్నవి. అందువలన జిల్లా బోర్డు పనులు సరిగా జరగకుంలేదు. అందువలన

[Sri L. Subbarama Reddi]

[5th March 1948]

ఈ జిల్లా బోర్డులను తిరిగి ప్రజల హస్తగతం చేయడం మంచిదిగాను, ఇందుకుగాను తాలూకాకు ఒక representation ను సెలెక్టుచేసి, Legislatures లో ఉండి సభ్యులనుకూడా తీసుకొని వీరిలోనుంచి ఒక ప్రెసిడెంటును ఎన్నుకొని ఈ బోర్డులను పునరుద్ధరించినట్లయితే బాగుంటుంది.”

SRI A. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—“ ఇప్పుడు ఏమి ఇబ్బందులు కలుగుతున్నాయి ?”

SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI :—“ ఇప్పుడు ఈ జిల్లా బోర్డులు కరెక్టు చేతులలో ఉండడంవలన వారువారి ఇతర కమిషనరీ Board పనులకు హామ్య శ్రద్ధ దూషించ లేకుండా ఉన్నారు. చాలా పనులు ఆగిపోయినాయి. పనులు జరుగక ప్రజలు బాధపడుతున్నారు.

“ మా జిల్లాలో పెన్నా నదికి నెల్లూరువద్ద bridge లేకపోవుటవలన ప్రజలు చాలా బాధలు పడుతున్నారు. మా పెన్నా నదిలో సంవత్సరంలో చాలా రోజులు నీరు తక్కువగావున్నా ప్రవాహము వచ్చినపుడు చాలా వడిగా వస్తుంది. దీనివలన ప్రతి సంవత్సరం కొంతమంది ప్రవాహంలో కొట్టుకొనిపోయి వనిపోతున్న సంగతి అందరకూ తెలిసినటువంటిది. ఈ పెన్నా నది చాలా వడిగా వస్తుంది. ‘పెన్నా దాటితే పెరుమాళ్ల నేప’ అనే సామెత ఉంది. కాబట్టి ఈ ప్రవాహపు రోజులలో చాలు జరుగకుండుటకుగాను, ఇతర రవాణా సౌకర్యాలకుగాను ఈ పెన్నా నదిమీద ఒక bridge సాఫ్టుమెంట్ త్వరలో కట్టించవలసినదిగా ప్రభుత్వమువారిని ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాను.”

4 p.m. **SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—**“ Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Minister on the budget that he has presented. It is the first full budget after the attainment of freedom and it has many welcome features about it. Many works for which provision has been made in the budget will provide ample work for the workers returning from the war and for those unemployed in the country. That is one of the features of the budget on which the Ministry has got especially to be thanked. Again, Prohibition will be introduced in all the districts very soon. That is a measure which will help the working classes and the peasants and workers of the country. Not only will it help them economically but it will also enable them to think seriously about their conditions and strive for their liberation. Sir, other speakers have referred to this and other features of the budget and I would not have come forward to take up the time of the House but for the cheap theme in which certain hon. Members indulged in at the expenses of the trade union movement and the labour movement in the country. It is the employer's turn, Sir, to indulge in platitudes against the trade union movement. But it is very unfortunate that such an eminent person as Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar should also indulge in the cheap theme of insinuation. Such insinuations have been indulged in by employers and politicians in the country, even by politicians of the Congress complexion. The other day my hon. Friend, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, said that it was the mischief of outsiders among the workers that was the cause for all the organized lawlessness and for all the strikes and discontent that existed in the country. I

5th March 1948] [Sri P. R. K. Sarma]

am very sorry to see that there are people who ought to know the inherent respect for the rights of labour and for the trade union movement and labour organizations but who are not supporting labour interests. The poor workers, the peasants, are people who are in need of help. They cannot come forward. They do require the help of the intellectuals in this country. For example, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sri Jai Prakash Narain are more seriously for the guidance of the poor who do not know that they are actually suffering. If the poor and the suffering were conscious of their condition they would not be in that miserable condition for one moment. It is the intellectuals who have got to educate them. It is the ideologically minded people who feel more for the suffering of the poor and who are striving hard to alleviate their conditions. Sir, the trade union movement and the labour movement in this country owe their origin and development to such selfless leaders as Mr. Giri and Mr. Joshi and others belonging to the great Indian National Congress. It is all good for the employers to say that it is the outsiders who are creating all these troubles. But these outsiders are there to help the industry and to see that the workers are not exploited by the employers and to teach the workers about their rights and obligations and to guide them along sound and healthy trade union lines. I am very sorry to say, Sir, that unfortunately the Labour department is not at all treated in a serious manner by the Government. For example, within the last three or four years, we have had three or four changes in the Minister in charge of the portfolio of Labour. Mr. Giri was there. Then Dr. Rajan was there and then Mr. Sitharama Reddi is there. Frequent changes in the Minister in charge of an important subject like Labour adversely affect the interests of Labour. It becomes difficult to have a continuity of policy. This morning, I put a question, Sir, which is of vital interest to the workers. It is a very simple and direct question, namely, whether the Government of Madras have recognized any central organizations or divisions of labour. It is a simple question. The question has been admitted. Still the Hon. Minister who answered the question has not been able to give any information on the subject. And while replying to a supplementary question he said that the Hon. Minister is concerned was not there. There has been more than one month's time for the Secretariat to prepare a reply and give it. This shows the inherent indifference for the trade union movement on the part of the present Ministry."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" On a point of order, Sir, I object to that sort of insinuation made by the hon. Member. He knows pretty well why the Hon. Minister in charge of Labour could not be present for answering the question. Therefore, he should not attribute motives to the Government or any Minister."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" I am sorry, Sir, I gave that impression. I am not attributing motives. I said that the question had been admitted. If the question is not put in the proper way or if there are any doubts, the question is returned and it is redrafted. But here, the question has been allowed and the

[Sri P. R. K. Sarma] [5th March 1948]

Secretariat has had sufficient time for collecting the information and to prepare a reply. I attach vital importance to the question"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The answer to the question was given. It was only on a supplementary question that no reply could be given."

4-15
p.m.

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Belonging as I do, Sir, to the Party in office, I am not at all insinuating or trying to cast by reflections on any Hon. Minister. As I said, strikes are occurring all over. It is not due to labour leaders. It is said that the labour leaders are making efforts so that there may be the greatest number of strikes, bigger strikes and more strikes all over the country. It is very unfortunate that an hon. Member of this House should have indulged in such cheap insinuations against people for giving their life to the labour movement. Consecutively, for the last two years, this Government have been adopting an attitude of indifference to labour, and I say that, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command, with the result that labour has suffered and is suffering to-day. I need only quote the instance of the strike in Coimbatore. The strike there is not due to the labour leaders. The workers of the mills which are not working now are under the Congress leadership, not under Communist leadership. In fact, against the Communist candidate, the Congress candidate has come out successful with a large majority. The workers are Congress-minded. I know the situation there is difficult. But, for the last two months, the industry is suffering and the workers are also suffering. The Government have not seriously thought of finding out ways and means to see that the stalemate is ended. The conciliation machinery is there. The Labour department has been trying to do its best, but yet it has not hit upon a solution which will end this stalemate. Disputes occur and strikes break out because workers have got real difficulties. When the workers have no grievances, nobody on the face of the earth can ask them to strike work, because a strike affects a worker much more than anybody else. There is no effective conciliation machinery. There are one or two conciliation officers appointed here and there. They know nothing about labour problems. For example, we have some schoolmasters, who have been failures as schoolmasters, who have been thrust upon us as conciliation officers. They do not have the necessary equipment nor the necessary training with regard to conciliation in disputes. They find it difficult to deal with labour problems. Then, Sir, ..."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Who are the schoolmasters, Sir? "

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" I am not casting any reflection on schoolmasters. I myself had been a schoolmaster. They may be useful in teaching grammar, but they have been failures in bringing out peaceful settlements between capital and labour. In their own field, they may be efficient."

5th March 1948]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I think you said they were failures.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ People who are teachers are brought in. Small disputes which can be settled in a day or two are allowed to drag on for six months and one year, and then it is referred to the Industrial Tribunal. The Tribunal takes one month or sometimes several months. I am talking of disputes which are before the Tribunal for the last eight months and yet we had not had the first hearing. In the meanwhile, some issues arise, and they lead naturally to confusion, and there is the disturbance to industrial peace.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ What is your suggestion? Give it.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ There should be effective, adequate machinery for conciliation proceedings even when a dispute is developing, and by conciliatory efforts disputes should be settled as far as possible. Unless a dispute fails in conciliation efforts, there should be no need for a dispute to be referred to the Industrial Tribunal. On account of political influences and other things, a dispute is referred to the Industrial Tribunal even when the parties to the dispute do not exist, when there is no strike notice, and even where workers have not organized themselves and have not put forward a demand. For example, I may point out that if an influential member of the Congress Labour Sub-Committee, which is sponsored by the Tamilnad Congress Committee, goes to the Labour Commissioner, even though there is no dispute, an adjudication is granted. But if people who do not go about with the Congress Sub-Committee, but who still belong to the Congress, go and wait at the office of the Labour Commissioner, even though there is a bona fide strike, it takes six months for the Labour Commissioner to grant adjudication. I shall give an instance where there is a bona fide dispute, and where the Labour Commissioner has not taken steps to refer the dispute for adjudication. There is the Ajax Factory very near Madras. There is a union there for several years. It is registered under the Trade Unions Act. Respectable leaders belonging to the trade union movement are connected with the organization as office-bearers. Strike notices have been given. There has been a demand for adjudication. But the Labour Commissioner has not even cared to send a reply. But in the printing industry, there was no definite dispute and there are no parties to the dispute. But, yet Mr. Markandeyulu has been constituted as the Industrial Tribunal to go into possible disputes in the printing industry. As there was no dispute in the industry, Mr. Markandeyulu was not able to know where the parties to the dispute are and to whom summons should be sent, and what is the dispute to be enquired into. Sir, against the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1933, while matters are pending before the Tribunal, workers have been dismissed and the General Secretary of the Union also has been dismissed. The Labour Commissioner has asked the employer to take him back to work. Government have issued a warning to the employers, and still he has not been taken back to service. Sir, under section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, the employer is

[Sri P. R. K. Sarma]

[5th March 1948]

liable to be imprisoned for six months and also is liable to be fined Rs. 1,000 for these offences. The Government have been trying to do their best. Because members of the Congress party are out there, Government find it difficult to enforce the matter. I am only anxious that conciliation machinery should be effective, that law should be enforced, conciliation should be timely and reference to adjudication should also be timely. The door should not be closed after the horse is stolen.

"Fundamentally, there is no respect for labour and for the trade union movement on the part of the present Government, and I reiterate it with all the emphasis at my command. Otherwise, the situation will be different. Ministers are eminent people and very sympathetic people. I do not mean to cast any reflection on them, but we in the trade movement dealing with the workers' organizations and disputes day after day know what the conditions are, and when we talk to them, we are described as mischief-makers, as Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar was pleased to characterize.

"What Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar said about Government is true. Politicians should not try to exploit the labour movement. They are to-day doing that. That is the spirit of the observation made by the Hon. Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar. I quite agree with him. To-day, the labour movement has become the cockpit of contending political parties. I am certain that Congress or anybody cannot go and organize labour movement. The Congress people in the Tamilnad Congress Committee want to organize labour under its own auspices against the organization started by the Indian National Trade Union Congress by leaders like Acharya Kripalani, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi himself. Mahatma Gandhi has attended the last meeting of the All-India Congress Committee where a resolution was passed saying that every Congress man should associate himself with the Indian National Trade Union Congress organized to redeem the workers from the clutches of party politicians like the Communists or even the Congress men and to develop trade union movement on sound and proper lines like the union conducted under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi. What is happening here, Sir? All the three are fighting against the National Trade Union Congress organized with a view to redeem workers from party politicians and to see that the trade union is conducted on proper lines free from domination by any political party.

"Sir, reference has been made to the Coimbatore dispute, about which none could be proud. But as one connected with the trade union movement for the last twenty-five years—every hour of the day and every minute—I wish to say that the situation is still continuing on account of the rival leadership and not on account of any real need on the part of the workers there to continue the strike. It is a fight for leadership between two leaders as to who should dominate. The Indian National Trade Union Congress is against such exploitation of workers, and they want that labour should be organized on sound and proper lines free from the influence of any political party. I am quite sure that conciliation steps will be taken up immediately. It is rival party leadership

5th March 1948] [Sri P. R. K. Sarma]

that is responsible for the situation which is continuing in Coimbatore. We have suggested that a reference may be made to the Tribunal. We have also made a suggestion that now that we are going to constitute works councils to go into disputes in every factory, the works councils may be formed very soon in the various mills, and in the meanwhile the issues in the dispute might be referred for clarification back to the very Industrial Tribunal which made their report."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has taken twenty 4-30 minutes." p.m.

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Sir, I want to say a few words about labour legislation in this Province. Whereas the Bombay Government have enacted various laws for the benefit of labour, our Government have done nothing. For example, the Bombay Government have enacted the Industrial Disputes Act. In our Province, recently we passed the Shop Assistants' Act and the Non-Power Factories Act. It is only now that we have heard that the Shop Assistants' Act is in its final stages and will come into force very soon. It is very regrettable to see from the answer given to one of the questions that His Excellency has not given his assent to the Non-Power Factories Act, and that it cannot be brought into force. It is because the employers are doing everything possible to defeat the purposes and the implications of this Act. Sir, we have taken a long time to enact these laws and so Government should take sufficient steps to see that the two laws are immediately brought into force."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I want to point out to the hon. Member that this matter is beyond the power of the Provincial Government or the Legislature."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Sir, as Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar pointed out, the present Industrial Disputes Act is full of defects. Sir, this Legislature is not responsible for it. There are awards, but there is no machinery for enforcing them."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Your speech need not be a criticism of Hon. Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar's speech."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Then, Sir, the penal clauses in the Act have not been brought into force against employers. Government have given a warning and asked the employers to take back the workers as recommended by the Labour Commissioner but that has not been done. So, Sir, labour is gradually losing its faith in the efficacy of the law. This is not a very healthy sign of the times."

" Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Government themselves as employers. Before I pass on to that subject, I wish to point out that the Government have done nothing to create a machinery to conciliate with regard to labour matters. There was a proposal for a tripartite conference on the lines of the tripartite conference adopted by the Central Government. We do not know on what date it will be held. Since we have not heard anything,

[Sri P. R. K. Sarma]

[5th March 1948]

it must be taken that the Government gave up the idea. I urge upon the Government to take the matter up immediately because it would be very helpful all over the Presidency.

"Then, Sir, I wish to say one word about the Government as employers. By no means, the Government are model employers either with regard to service conditions or with regard to salaries. The principle of a basic living wage has not been recognized by the Government. Government still employ men on Rs. 8, on Rs. 9 and on Rs. 12. The peons are given a salary of Rs. 16 to Rs. 25. He will reach Rs. 25 when he becomes a grandfather. Starting from Rs. 16, it goes to Rs. 25 with an annual increment of half a rupee. Government should set an example to other employers by paying their staff adequately. There should be a basic minimum wage of at least Rs. 40. The statistics gathered with regard to the working classes show that in the City of Madras, Rs. 40 will not be enough, even if you pay dearness allowance to make up the deficit. They are not given any compensation against the terrible rise in the cost of living. Few employers have increased their dearness allowance according to the rise in the cost of living index. It is now about 302 to-day. Certain employers in the City pay Rs. 37 or Rs. 40. Some other employers are giving the necessary articles of food at pre-war rates apart from some money as dearness allowance. But, the Government are not giving increased dearness allowance according to the index figure, but are only paying Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 as increased dearness allowance. Whereas you ask the private employers to give dearness allowance according to the index figure, you are yourselves giving dearness allowance of Rs. 16 and Rs. 18 for those who are getting a pay of less than Rs. 20. Persons working below Rs. 20 a month is something which is not very creditable to the Government."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"Government are not a profit earning concern."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"The worker has got to live. He has to get the same articles of food. The shopman is not going to sell him the necessaries for his existence at a cheaper rate because he is paid low."

"Then, Sir, Government have appointed a Committee of Ministers to go into the conditions of Government service. I do not want to go into the detail, but some of the Ministers . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"All those points have been gone into in great detail. The hon. Member has already taken twenty-five minutes."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"I am finishing, Sir. The Salaries Sub-Committee recommended that the salaries may be paid according to the market rates. What is the market rate? Is it Rs. 15? One Collector in Chingleput said that the market rate is so much and the Government must give more. The Government are to-day giving a dearness allowance of Rs. 18. But, in the General Hospital, in the Mental Hospital and in the Tuberculosis Hospital and elsewhere, the Superintendent and the Doctor

5th March 1948] [Sri P. R. K. Sarma]

refuse to pay this dearness allowance to staff employed on contingencies. I have already made a representation on the subject to the Hon. the Minister but nothing has happened. Again, Sir, when the dearness allowance was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16, the salary of the workers in the King Institute was reduced. I have made representations in this House repeatedly about the so-called contingency staff that they should be employed on a permanent continuous basis, but the matter has been delayed till now and the Hon. the Minister has stated that in January, all these contingent staff in the Public Health Department would be confirmed. The Secretary of the Department will see that it is delayed till March. There is no redemption for this contingent staff.

"Then, Sir, one word about the trade union rights of Government servants. I am not for any strikes anywhere, not to speak of strikes by Government servants. But, it is the duty of the Government to maintain such conditions of service for their employees as would not permit of any strike by them. Even in private industries, the workers who are on strike are entitled to form themselves into trade unions and to have recourse to arbitration. When such is the case, why do you take away the right of Government servants forming themselves into a trade union?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Does the Budget propose to take that right away?"

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"Sir, this is the occasion for me to raise my voice on the policies adumbrated by the Hon. Ministers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I do not know if any Hon. Minister has said that Government would take away that right."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"About the trade union rights of Government servants, the Hon. the Home Minister the other day made a statement in the other House, that they have no right to form themselves into a trade union. If the Government concede that right to the workers in private concerns, they should also concede that right to their own employees. In some countries, there is trade union right provided for Government servants."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Does it exist in United States of America?"

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"Sir, we do not want to adopt what is being done in a reactionary State like the United States of America. Today, in some countries, the civil servants have got a right to organize themselves into a trade union and make a joint representation about their grievances. The Hon. Dr. Subbarayan who knows about these matters has said openly and declared that the Government servants cannot have the right to form a trade union organization. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the Government servants, after getting the permission of the Government, can form themselves into a trade union. It is really a progressive principle, that the trade union rights of Government servants should be recognized. It will be conducive to progress and will avoid strikes and it is a moral obligation on the part of the Government to concede that right."

[5th March 1948]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member's time is up.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ Then, one last word about housing schemes. A housing scheme has been contemplated in the Budget. But, Sir, when an interpellation was put, the Hon. Minister replied that the major schemes will include the minor ones. In reply to another interpellation on a different occasion whether there was any scheme for building houses, the reply was in the negative. Sir, I want the Government to take up the housing scheme immediately, so that it will afford immediate relief to the working class. The needs of the working class are very urgent and the problem is a serious one. So, I want the Government to treat the workers with respect and dignity and not to look down upon these people. Unless there is a radical change in the outlook of Government, I am sorry to say, there will be reactions on the part of the workers which will not be very healthy. I only appeal to the Government to follow a progressive policy and help the workers and get the best out of them.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, at this late hour, I could not do better than refer to a few broad aspects of the situation in the country and the problems facing this Province. During the last financial year, I mean the financial year which is just drawing to a close, events have taken place, events which may take their place in the history of the country. I mean in particular, the merger of the states of Banganapalle and Pudukottah with the Province of Madras. The Hon. the Finance Minister himself has mentioned in his Budget Speech about the merger of the Banganapalle State with this Province. Apart from welcoming it, I am glad that the Hon. the Finance Minister has a larger jurisdiction and more territory to care for.”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ And consequently more trouble.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ I think it is really a welcome trouble. Sir, the next thing I want to refer to is this. In this morning's newspapers, it has been mentioned that certain persons have formed an association in Pudukottah with the object of restoring the ruler back. I hope the Hon. the Minister-in-charge—I do not know who is the Minister now, but formerly, there was the Agent-General in charge of the Southern States, probably now it is the Minister-in-charge of Home affairs—I hope, he will carefully watch the activities of these persons and stop them and thus see that Pudukottah permanently forms part of this Province and becomes one with this Province. There is only one other state which ought to really form part of this Province. I refer to the State of Sandur. In this morning's papers, it was published that the Raja of Sandur had some meeting with Sardar Patel and I hope what is expected will happen. Apart from the states which have become part of our Province, there are a few other portions which morally and legally ought to be part of this Province. I refer both to Pondicherry and Karaikal. Sir, on the 15th of January, this year, there was a very large gathering at Pondicherry in which prominent leaders from Tamilnad also took

5th March 1948]

[Sri S. B. Adityan]

part and in that conference, the Congress organization and numerous other organizations were also represented. A resolution was passed unanimously by the Conference expressing a wish that Pondicherry should form part of the South Arcot district and that Karikkal should form part of the Tanjore district.

" Again, Sir, I wish to refer to a news item which appeared in the papers recently that certain representatives and friends of the Government at Pondicherry are having a talk with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and that what is sought to be insisted upon is a plebiscite by a referendum.

" Now, Sir, in this Conference which took place in January, the question of plebiscite was particularly dealt with and people expressed their strong opposition to the holding of any such plebiscite. These are matters which affect the welfare of the people of this Province and I hope the Minister-in-charge will take a strong line of action and represent to the Central Government that the people in these districts and territories are in no mood to hold any plebiscite. If plebiscites are held in small streets and villages, there are many streets in Madras which will form part of Pakistan. Sir, no plebiscite was held when the British left India or when the Raja of Pudukottah merged his territory into the Madras Province. There are five lakhs of people in Pudukottah. But there are only two lakhs in these two portions which ought to form part of the Madras Province. I hope the Minister concerned will represent the very strong feeling against holding any referendum in the matter of these two portions joining the Madras Province.

4-15
P.M.

" Sir, I was really glad that the Hon. Minister Mr. Bhaktavatsalam, the other day, moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly regarding the conditions of Indians in Burma. A very large part, nearly 90 per cent, of Indians overseas have emigrated from this Province. The recent legislation proposed to be introduced in Burma adversely affects the interests of Indians there, particularly the interests of South Indians. The land laws and the immigration laws strike at the Indians in particular.

" Sir, I was glad that the Hon. Minister Dr. Subbarayan went to represent this country at the Independence Celebrations of Ceylon. There are eight lakhs of Indians in Ceylon. It is probably the country where Indians have emigrated in the largest numbers. Next to that, is Malaya. I wish, Sir, that more attention had been paid to the interests of Indians in Malaya. About 90 per cent of Indians in Malaya belong to this province. Recently, they have submitted a memorandum both to the Central and Provincial Governments. In this, they have traced how Indians went to Malaya and how their legitimate rights are sought to be affected by the Bill now before the Legislature of Malaya. I do not want now to go into the details of that Bill. Lord Mountbatten, the present Governor-General of India was, at the time of the reoccupation of Malaya, the Supreme Commander. He then said that all rights and properties would be respected provided that the rights and properties acquired during the Japanese occupation may

[Sri S. B. Adityan]

[5th March 1948]

be subject to investigation and such action as justice requires. But what is now proposed to be done in Malaya is to suppress the rights and properties of Indians. I hope that the Hon. Minister who has received this memorandum, will pay particular attention to this aspect of the matter and make strong representations to the Central Government and see that this Bill is amended in such a way that Indians' rights are not affected. In fact, I would suggest that the Minister who deals with these affairs should undertake a tour of these countries—Ceylon, Burma and Malaya. He will then really understand the exact position of our countrymen there. I can assure him that he would receive a very warm and cordial welcome. Sir, it is somewhat unfortunate that the present Home Minister, some time back, declined a chance to go as the representative of the Indian Government to Malaya. If he had gone there, it would have helped a great deal to solve certain urgent problems."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not know if the Hon. Minister Dr. Subbarayan is listening to the remarks of the hon. Member."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir, that is a fact."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If the Hon. Minister can repair the damage, he may do it."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Sir, I now come to the other matters more intimately connected with us. During the last year the only main achievement of the Government, so far as I can see, is the zamindari abolition. It has still to go through certain hurdles. But only this achievement stands out. Of course, there is Prohibition. But it was introduced during the previous year and we cannot be taking credit for it year after year. Apart from the Zamindari Abolition Bill which, I hope, will soon be on the Statute Book, the Revenue Minister has also promised to bring in legislation for Land Revenue Reform, with the object of introducing a progressive sort of taxation instead of the present rigid taxation. We are also promised that it will be uniform in nature throughout the province. How urgent and how necessary it is to have a uniform system throughout the province, I shall show by an illustration. I refer to the palmyra tax which is imposed on trees only in Tinnevely district. It is an anomaly. The tax is a primitive method of taxation. When the Finance Minister has got a very effective method in the sales tax and when he has got only to put the screw on the sales tax in order to get another crore or two crores more, it is high time that the tree-tax is abolished. Moreover, Sir, this tax is in force only in Tinnevely district."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Shall we extend it to other districts also?"

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" If you please, Sir, and if there is a demand for it from other districts. But I think it would be more welcome if this primitive taxation is abolished even in the district where it exists."

5th March 1948]

[Sri S. B. Adityan]

" Sir, the reason why this tax exists in Tinnevely district and not in other districts is this : It was formerly imposed by the Naik Kings, and when the British took over the administration from Naik Kings, they continued this taxation also. Now, that the British Government is no longer in existence here, I hope that this tax will also be abolished. The Hon. Minister for Revenue is not here in the House, just at the moment. I will be glad if, in the reply to the debate, specific reference is made to this tax and we are informed whether in the reform of land tenure that is proposed, there will be anything to suggest that this tax would be abolished.

" Sir, the Hon. the Finance Minister asked whether it would not be better if this tax was imposed in all the districts. If the tax was introduced in all the districts, then there would at least be the justification for getting all the revenue. As it is, it is imposed only in one district and the revenue derived is taken to the general revenues of the province. If the revenues are utilized to help the growing of trees in the particular district, then there might be some justification for keeping it on. Sir, I believe that it is high time that this particular tax is abolished and I hope the Hon. Minister will make a note of it so that we may hear something about it to-morrow. I have mentioned this only as one of the anomalies which exist in the present land tenure system.

" Sir, apart from the abolition of the zamindaris, I am afraid that there is nothing of very great credit in the administration during the past one year. This much could be said that the Government carried on the day-to-day administration. But that might be a compliment to the Government when the British held the country but not for a popular Government. Sir, the Government have not applied their mind to the real problem of the day. The problem of the day is no longer the independence of the country. It is the removal of the poverty of the people. With the return of ex-servicemen, the problem of unemployment is more acute. People are still living on a starvation level. When I travel in other countries and see the high standard of living achieved there, I ask myself : ' Why is it that the people of our country are still in such a low economic level, when the people in western countries have passed very high above the starvation level and achieved a decent level of comfort ? ' The real reason is, in those countries there is a great deal of production of wealth which in course of time gets distributed to the people. Sir, if the yearly income per individual is Rs. 10, it means that the yearly income of forty crores of people is four hundred crores of rupees, and the value of production in the country is four hundred crores of rupees. Sir, I do not mean that it is money that counts. Money is, after all, what money buys. What should really be done is to increase production so that the people may ultimately get more. In western countries, if a man gets on an average Rs. 100 a month, it really means that the national pool of wealth is higher, the average man gets a greater share of material wealth. By wealth, I mean everything material—pen, paper, radio, car, ship, etc. If the Government really apply their minds to this problem, I would have something

[Sri S. B. Adityan]

[5th March 1948]

to congratulate them upon. There should be a planned effort for production of more wealth. We have great potentialities. For instance, there are vast deposits of lime-stones in Tinnevely district, of iron in Salem district and various other mineral resources throughout the country. What is required is a sustained effort to produce more. The Government should tackle this problem of poverty by drawing up a big plan for starting various industries in all the districts. The capital required could be raised. I do not want to go into the details. What is now required is a big increase in the manufactured goods so that people's level of economic life could be increased. The other day Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru referred to this aspect of the matter and I believe he mentioned that after attaining independence, the most important problem is this: Personally I would judge the success of the Government by the degree by which they have raised the economic level of the people. If this year the total production for a month in our presidency is Rs. 4 crores worth of goods, goods and materials worth Rs. 40 crores should be produced in each month, if that production should be increased by 10 per cent. Then the Government would have succeeded to that extent. I will measure the success of the Government by the degree by which they have succeeded in producing more, so that people can have more. Ultimately what should be aimed at is that the country should be able to produce more. I hope that such a plan on a big scale would be drawn up by the Government and pushed through energetically so that by this time next year we would be able to say that the average national income in this country is really higher and substantially higher."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to pay the devil his due, not the devil of the scriptures but the one who worked double tide consuming perhaps the midnight oil. Despite the colossal loss of revenue to the tune of Rs. 17 crores and odd, the Finance Minister was able to balance the thorny budget. Apart from this, the budget seems to be dressed in a humdrum fashion. Big schemes of far-reaching results are not taken up. Self-liquidating public works are conspicuous by their absence from the budget. He might plead that a large revenue had to be lost due thanks to the introduction of prohibition. I would request him to take round his hat or raise a loan of about Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 crores. (Interruption). Even for that I suppose one has to take the hat to the India Government or to some other agency. About this time next year he should have all the sinews of war to launch colossal schemes which would be of benefit to the common weal. Since you Mr. President have introduced rationing of time within the four walls of this House I would confine myself to only two subjects which are vital to us all, namely, Public Health and Agriculture . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"It is better to confine oneself to one or two subjects and deal with them quite adequately."

5th March 1948]

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—“ It goes without saying that medical care for all citizens, man, woman and child, is the foremost duty of the Government. A National Health Service is of urgent and imperative need. Medical and allied services in the province are very inadequate. Many districts are under-doctored. Hospitals, barring few exceptions, are ill-equipped and poorly staffed. Geographical distribution of doctors in the mufassal should be improved and the financial barriers and hurdles removed. There is a criss-cross pattern of financial obstacles which should be surmounted at all costs without loss of time. Now that the Government is a National Government, a Government of the people for the people it should assume the high and noble duty of guaranteeing as a citizen right that every man, woman and child shall have free medical care and aid of the highest attainable quality, according to the medical needs. This, I believe, is an inescapable obligation of the Government. So the future scheme would be destined for radical and far-reaching changes. Our aim should be to promote the establishment of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement both in the physical and mental health of the people. The existing services have grown haphazardly and in a patch-work fashion and are more for medical care rather than for health. Of great importance to the future, is the emphasis on prevention all the world over. For the last one decade interest on public health policy has been noticeably shifting or has shifted to the preventive aspects of medicine.

“ For the measurement of trends in the health of a community the death-rate is regarded as the best available index. The average span of life of an Indian is still about 26 years. Infant mortality has not gone down very much. The incidence of morbidity, though data not collected, seems to be very widespread, especially after the two global wars due to malnutrition. So the major problem that confronts us is the incidence of morbidity, of ill-health and disabling ailments. The almost universal incidence of disease of departure from normal health should be attended to. The scope of the Nutrition Society at Coonoor, should be widened for advancing the scientific study of nutrition and for its application to the maintenance of both human and animal health. Survey of numerous families and individuals should be undertaken. A bureau for this purpose should be founded.

“ We have a number of hospitals, good, and indifferent but no hospital system. Hospital services are many people's business but nobody's full responsibility. So, management of the hospitals should be well pulled up. Therefore a National Hospital Inspectorate should be established forthwith.

“ ‘ A home ’ said Bernard Shaw, ‘ is a box built of bricks into which is thrown an ill-fitting jumble of humanity.’ This remark holds water regarding a very large number of houses in India. The deleterious effects of ill-ventilated and cramped habitations cannot be exaggerated. The Dudley Committee recommended a minimum overall built in area of 900 square feet, the reason being

[Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib]

[5th March 1948]

the nervous strain of living in too cramped quarters which is an enemy of healthy family life, and this ought not to be ignored. A housing environment that will give a moving current of air is essential. S. F. Markham once put forward a strong case to show that civilizations have risen and fallen not so much in relation to the state of their moral health but rather in proportion as they acquired and retained their mastery of climate both indoor and outdoor. It is high time therefore that a Housing Act is passed to enable condemnation of a dwelling as unfit for human habitation if, inter alia, it has sanitary defects which include lack of air, space or ventilation, darkness, dampness, absence of adequate water-supply or sanitary accommodation and adequate paving, etc. The Royal College of Physicians have said the same about space requirements.

"Both rural and urban slum clearance schemes should be initiated and implemented throughout the province. The scourge of tuberculosis is advancing by giant strides and takes a heavy toll. An association on the model of the National Association of London for the prevention of tuberculosis should be formed. It should be the leading body for research, education and propaganda in this department of preventive medicine. Periodical magazines, cinema films and literature of all kinds on the different phases of the anti-tuberculosis campaign should be produced by the Association. Refresher courses should be arranged for the general public.

"Sir Francis Galton, the founder of Eugenics, defined it as the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities of the race. It is pitiable that in the whole sub-continent there is not one Eugenics Society. The ethical basis as Lord Horder said rests on man's duty to his neighbours and to posterity to provide the best possible environmental condition as well as the best physical and mental human endowment. The scientific basis is the study of transmissible biological characters. The society aims at creating in the community a eugenic conscience by educating the youth. This conscience is expected to influence the attitude of both the individual and the community towards marriage and parenthood. The society should possess a reference library, a quarterly review and an information service.

"Housden rightly observed that as long as the social unit remains the family, so long the welfare of children remain a chief concern of their parents. Child-welfare should all the more become a principal aim of official policy and private endeavour. The standards both of child health and child behaviour are too low in India. The figures for infant mortality have not appreciably dropped. Gross and grave forms of rickets and scurvy are common. The teeth of school children are bad enough. Far too many children are ailing who were healthy at birth. They suffer from digestive and nervous disorders from nutritional deficiencies, despite the care of the health services which are meagre. A higher standard of parent-craft would prevent this formation. If it be too strong to say that delinquents are created at home it

5th March 1948] [Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib]

is still true to say that their creation could be, but is not prevented 5 p.m.
at home. Parenthood is concerned with everything connected with the healthy and happy upbringing of children. It includes knowledge of the child's needs both as animal and as a personality. It creates an environment—the home most suitable for healthy growth. It forms around the children a sense of spiritual unity. This spiritual link helps to maintain a high standard of behaviour. It provides a sense of security. *Parent-craft* falls naturally into two parts, mother-craft and home-making and citizenship. The best teachers of mother-craft at the moment are Health Visitors who have spent at least two years doing practical work in the peoples' homes and have taken as penal course the technique of teaching and so Government should pay particular attention to this aspect.

"Agriculture, being the key industry, is the life and blood of India and it is a way of life for 85 per cent of our people. The agricultural problem, as Hambidge pointed out, is only part of a more inclusive natural economic problem. Events on the other side of the globe profoundly affect farmers here. We should consider agriculture and industry as a single unit. We should strike a balance between them. On the one hand we push forward agricultural efficiency with the inevitable consequence that fewer people are needed for production; on the other we advocate inefficiency or at any rate tolerate it by an extension of subsistence farming as the only way to take care of those who are displaced by improved techniques. To get greater stability and security within agriculture we should know how to adjust agriculture to the rest of our economy."

"In this half of the present century, vast changes have occurred in the realm of agriculture in the west—from the sickle to the combine, the ox or bull to the tractor, a rural civilization to an industrial civilization, free land to high-priced land. These changes have profoundly influenced the very essence and character of rural living. But our agriculture is still primitive. Agricultural technology has not improved. We are too slow to adopt scientific methods. We have not accepted readily even the most practical applications of science. We still cling to tradition. Old ways are deeply rooted in us and so we still continue in the back waters of the world. Our agriculture, therefore, should go through without delay, a period of revolutionary change and growth stimulated by mechanical improvements, cheap and easy transportation and the expansion of domestic and foreign markets. Agricultural courses in a number of schools should be sponsored. Agricultural high schools should be started in every district. The development of specialized schools and colleges should be thought of all over the province. One or two colleges for our vast and far flung province is a sorry tale. Extensive farming though commendable has its own limitations and not sufficient to feed us all. Intensive cultivation would indeed go a great way to save us from starvation and famine. Is it not a disgrace that our province though mostly agricultural should starve year in and year out? Our salvation lies through mechanized agriculture. The post-war

[Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib] [5th March 1948]

period has already seen many new and different farm machines as the result of engineering advances and the outstanding result of this technological progress, will be to give the small one-family farm every advantage available through mechanical equipment to the larger farm. With the aid of these new automatic machines, a great majority of farms in the future will be one-family farms owned and operated by the members of the family with little or no assistance from hired labour.

“Next in importance come *Humus and fertilizers*. In making additions to the soil, as Hopkins observes, in order to increase its crops or to preserve its fertility two somewhat different kinds of nutritional requirements must be considered, the needs of the plant and the needs of the soil itself. No policy is more likely to provide high yields and also to keep land constantly in good heart than the conjoint use of manures and fertilizers. For these weighty reasons great attention should be paid to manures, green manures and fertilizers.

“*Mixed farming* should be encouraged in order to ensure soil fertility and regular employment throughout the year.

“Since soil is earth's capital, soil conservation is one of the major problems on which we should concentrate a good deal of our attention. Methods of tillage and rotation have an important effect upon soil structure and erosion by wind or water, removes the entire body of soil. Soil erosion should be combatted on a national scale. Soil conservation has become one of the major goals of American agriculture. So a soil conservation service should be set up. Surveys of soil types, slopes and erosion conditions should be undertaken.

“*Forest-resource conservation*.—Forest lands are *public trust*. It is lamentable that they are mismanaged. We are not making the best possible use of the vast resources of public and private forests. Forest land as Gibbon points out, serve at least *five major purposes*, each of which constitutes a large and essential phase of our national economy. These major purposes or uses are : (1) timber production, (2) water shed services, (3) recreation, (4) support of wild life, and (5) improvement of production. Wood is an exceedingly adaptable material for thousands of products. It is the basis of an enormous number and a variety of industries. Water-shed deserved by the forest cover in regulating stream flow and preventing erosion and floods. So an effective *action programme* is required to restore and maintain the forest resource and to achieve two major purposes : (1) to stop forest liquidation and to create and maintain a real forest economy with human welfare as its goal, and (2) to enable our people to utilize abundantly the timber and other products and services of the forest.

“*Rural electrification and rural progress*.—The wide use of electricity holds much hope and promise in raising the standard of living of individual farmers and other families. It also offers real opportunities to make a substantial contribution to community welfare and national well-being through its manifold applications

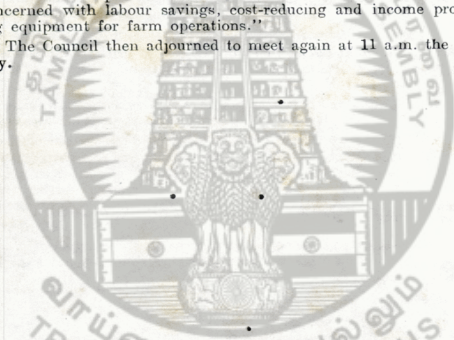
5th March 1948] [Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib]

in promoting a more permanent and stable agriculture. Therefore hydro-electric power, wherever available in the province should be harnessed and utilized at the earliest date. And such a power should be within the economic reach of the common farmer.

" Farm electrification in the United States has received a new stimulus from the Government's programme of financing and aiding farmers to obtain electric power. A rural electrification administration should be established forthwith, for giving electric service.

" In itself electricity is only a 'tool' to be used. Urban industry has found it to be the most flexible and versatile of all sources of power; agriculture also is already finding it, in other parts of the world of equal or greater importance in the performance of farm activities. In America there are over 200 separate uses for electric power on the farm. Some of the uses are directly concerned with labour savings, cost-reducing and income producing equipment for farm operations."

The Council then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.



வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS



Ad